



UKRAINE UNREST

Striking back

- Ukrainian army launches first major offensive
- Obama threatens broader Moscow sanctions
- Hagel: Russia poses 'long-term' challenge to NATO

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DARVO VOJNIOVIC/AP

Ukrainian soldiers stand guard at a road leading into Sloviansk, eastern Ukraine, on Friday. Ukraine launched what appeared to be its first major assault against pro-Russian forces who have seized government buildings in the country's east, with fighting breaking out Friday.

Kentucky National Guardsman sues over Army's tattoo policy

By BRETT BARROQUERE
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Kentucky National Guard soldier with aspirations of joining a U.S. Army special operations unit wants a federal judge to overturn the mil-

itary's new regulations concerning soldiers with tattoos.

Staff Sgt. Adam C. Thorogood, of Nashville, Tenn., said the tattoos covering his left arm from the elbow to the wrist aren't harmful, but the Army is using the body art against him and stop-

ping him from fulfilling a dream of joining "The Nightstalkers," the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky. Thorogood's attorneys said the new rules are preventing their client from seeking appointment as a warrant officer.

Thorogood, 28, sued Thursday in U.S. District Court in Paducah, Ky., seeking to have the new rules declared unconstitutional. He is seeking \$100 million in damages.

The regulations that went into effect in March cover a variety

of appearance-related issues including hairstyles, fingernails, glasses and jewelry. The rules ban tattoos below the knee or elbow. Soldiers who already have the ink are grandfathered in.

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WWII ON THE BIG SCREEN

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Ready to ride: A look ahead at the race, horses to watch

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I accidentally drove into Mexico with 3 guns, a rifle (AR-15), a .45 cal pistol and a 12 gauge pump shotgun with no intentions on being in Mexico or being involved in any criminal activity."

— Marine reservist Andrew Tahmoore, who is held on gun charges in a Mexican prison, in a signed privacy waiver

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MILITARY

Afghan landslide kills at least 350

By AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL — A landslide buried a village Friday in northeastern Afghanistan, leaving at least 350 people dead and hundreds missing, said Afghan and U.N. officials.

Badakhshan province Gov. Shah Waliullah Adeb said more than 2,000 people were missing after a hill collapsed on the village of Hobo Barik after days of heavy rain. Adeb said the landslide buried some 300 homes in the area — about a third of all houses there.

Ari Gaitanis, a spokesman from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, said at least 350 people died in the landslide. He said the U.N. is working with authorities on the ground to rescue people still trapped.

The governor said rescue crews were working but didn't have enough equipment, appealing for shovels.

"It's physically impossible right now," Adeb said. "We don't have enough shovels; we need more machinery." He said authorities evacuated



SOURCE: ESRI AP

a nearby village over concerns about further landslides.

Provincial police chief Faziluddin Hayar said the landslide happened about 1 p.m. Friday.

Badakhshan province, nestled in the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges and bordering China, is one of the most remote in the country. The area has seen few attacks from insurgents following the 2001 U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan.

Afghans living in the rugged mountains of northern Afghanistan are used to avalanches. The



AP via AP video

This image made from video shows people searching for survivors after a massive landslide buried a village Friday in Badakhshan province, northeastern Afghanistan.

most deadly one in the past two years occurred in February 2010, when more than 170 people were killed at the 12,700-foot-high

Salang Pass, which is the major route through the Hindu Kush mountains that connects the capital to the north.

Tattoo: New Army regulations impose limits on body art

FROM FRONT PAGE

Under the new regulations, any soldier with visible tattoos is barred from seeking a promotion to warrant officer or commissioning as an officer.

"You've got a soldier who is about as gung ho as you get ... then you've got this regulation you read about on Facebook and you don't have a career," said Robin May, a Kentucky-based attorney who represents Thorogood. "That would be a blow."

May said the new regulations violate a constitutional ban on laws that retroactively change the legal consequences or status of actions that were committed before the enactment of the law. The ban also infringes upon Thorogood's free speech rights, May said.

In an online video posted in March, Sgt. Maj. of the Army

Raymond F. Chandler III addressed why the changes were made, saying appearance matters and should "be a matter of personal pride" to soldiers.

"The Army is a profession, and one of the ways our leaders and the American public measure our professionalism is by our appearance," Chandler said. "Every soldier has the responsibility to understand and follow these standards. Leaders at all levels also have a responsibility to interpret and enforce these standards, which begins by setting the example."

Army spokesman George Wright told Stars and Stripes that the Army does not comment on lawsuits.

Tattoos have long been a part of military culture, but as they have become more popular, and

more prominently displayed on the body, the various branches have been regulating them to try to maintain a professional look. The Air Force bans tattoos covering more than a quarter of an exposed body part under regulations revised in 2011. In 2006, the Navy announced that forearm tattoos could be no wider than a hand's breadth.

The Marine Corps has been cracking down on tattoos for years. In 2007, the Corps banned sleeve tattoos and those covering the leg below the knee.

Thorogood spent 10 years on active duty in the Army as a decorated soldier and sniper before switching to the reserves, a move that allowed him to pursue a degree in aerospace at Middle Tennessee State University and to pursue certifications in flying

planes. Attorney Ken Humphries said Thorogood's goal was to submit an application for an appointment as a warrant officer, which are usually technical leaders and specialists, and to become a helicopter pilot.

Thorogood has 11 tattoos, including three on his left arm featuring a three-member sniper team, a second of skulls and the sniper logo of a serpent and spear and an amblem of the words "Fear Is the Mind Killer." Once the tattoo regulations took effect, body art that Thorogood had before the regulations could get him charged with a military offense if he even applied for the position.

"It disqualifies a candidate for cosmetic reasons," Humphries said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.

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UKRAINE UNREST

Kiev fights back

Ukraine reports many militants killed as country launches major offensive

By PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

SLOVYANSK, Ukraine — Pro-Russia insurgents shot down two Ukrainian helicopters Friday and Ukraine reported many militants killed or wounded as the interim government in Kiev launched its first major offensive against an insurgency that has seized government buildings across the east.

The Kremlin said Kiev's military move against the insurgents "destroyed" the 2-week-old Geneva agreement on cooling Ukraine's crisis. President Barack Obama said it was obvious to everyone now that the pro-Russia militants were not peaceful protesters and the U.N. Security Council held an emergency session in Ukraine at Russia's request.

Fighting broke out around dawn near Sloviansk, a city 100 miles from the Russian border that has become the focus of the armed insurgency. Two helicopter crewmembers were killed in the crashes, both sides said, and the insurgents reported one member killed.

Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov later said two Ukrainian soldiers were killed and seven wounded in Friday's clashes and the insurgents suffered significant losses, including many killed or injured. It was not clear if the two referred to the helicopter crew.

"Our security forces are fighting mercenaries of foreign states, terrorists and criminals," he said in a statement.

By early evening, Turchynov said the army controlled all of the checkpoints around Sloviansk, a city of 125,000 people.

One of the helicopters was hit

by a surface-to-air missile, the Ukrainian Security Service said, calling it a sophisticated weapon that undercut Russia's claims the city was simply under the control of armed locals. The agency said its forces were fighting "highly skilled foreign military men" in Sloviansk.

The Russian state television channel Russia 24 showed one man they said was a wounded helicopter pilot reportedly being helped by pro-Russia forces.

Central Sloviansk still remained in the hands of pro-Russia gunmen, according to AP journalists in the city. Several foreign news crews trying to cover the fighting were detained for several hours Friday before being released.

A clash also broke out late Friday between pro-Russians and government supporters in Odessa, a Black Sea coast port some 330 miles from the turmoil in the east. Police said one person died from gunfire and another was wounded. Until now, Odessa had remained largely untroubled since the February toppling of pro-Russia President Viktor Yanukovich, which ignited tensions in the east.

Turchynov admitted earlier this week that the central government had lost control of the east, and said some government troops and police there were "either helping or cooperating with terrorist organizations." He said Ukrainian forces were working to prevent the unrest from spreading to central areas like Odessa.

In Moscow, Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman said the Ukrainian offensive "effectively destroyed the last hope for the implementation of the Geneva agreements" that aimed

to defuse the crisis. But Dmitry Peskov said Russia "continues to undertake consistent efforts on de-escalation."

Putin had warned Ukraine not to move against the insurgents and said it should withdraw its military from the volatile eastern and southern regions.

Ukraine, a nation of 46 million, is deeply divided between those in the west who favor closer ties with Europe and many Russian-speakers in the east who look toward Moscow. Ukraine has accused Russia of backing the insurgents who have seized government buildings in at least 10 eastern cities and fears that Moscow is seeking a pretext to invade. Russia has already stationed tens of thousands of troops in areas near the Ukrainian border.



A Ukrainian soldier walks behind a burnt barricade as pro-Russia civilians block the road to Sloviansk, Ukraine, on Friday.

MANU BRABO/AP

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Russian troops backed separatists in Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea then annexed the region in March after a referendum called for secession.

The peace deal in Geneva last month aimed to get those who had seized government buildings in Ukraine to leave and calm down the tensions that have prompted the United States and the Euro-

pean Union to slap Russia with rounds of sanctions.

Russia's foreign ministry accused Ukraine's fledgling government of using "terrorists" from ultranationalist organizations for Friday's military operation. It also claimed that Kiev deployed tanks and helicopters that were "conducting missile strikes on protesters," something that neither side in Ukraine reported. An Associated Press crew also saw no evidence of missile strikes in Sloviansk.

Russia also cited insurgents in Ukraine as saying that some of the government attackers spoke English — an insinuation that the Ukrainian military was getting some help from the West.

"We are ready to negotiate with protesters and their representatives," Avakov said. "But for terrorists and armed separatists, there is only punishment."

Ukrainian troops met fierce resistance Friday morning but managed to take control of nine checkpoints on the roads around Sloviansk, Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said. He called on the insurgents to lay down their arms and release their hostages.

"We are ready to negotiate with protesters and their representatives," Avakov said. "But for terrorists and armed separatists, there is only punishment."

Hagel emphasized the need to wean Europe off its dependence on Russian energy supplies, noting that the U.S. Department of Energy has conditionally approved export permits for liquefied natural gas that would add up to more than half of Europe's gas imports from Russia.

"Future generations will note whether, at this moment — at this moment of challenge, we summoned the will to invest in our alliance. We must not squander this opportunity or shrink from this challenge. We will be judged harshly by history and by future

Tougher sanctions considered

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel threatened tougher and broader new sanctions against Russia on Friday if Moscow doesn't quickly change its disruptive behavior.

"We will not have a choice but to move forward with additional more-severe sanctions" if Russia disrupts a presidential election in Ukraine scheduled for May 25, Obama said at a news conference with Merkel outside the White House.

Both leaders made it clear that the next step would be to order sanctions on separate parts of the Russian economy or military — on energy or arms for example — but neither leader specified precisely what was being considered.

Russian President Vladimir Putin "needs to be discredited from his current course," Obama said.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Security Council met on the crisis in Ukraine at the request of Russia, whose ambassador Vitaly Churkin is demanding a "swift halt of all violence."

Western powers on the council accused Russia of equipping and funding the pro-Russia forces that have seized government buildings in 10 eastern cities.

French ambassador Gerard Araud "says, 'Russia ... has released the hand of Ukraine ... and is suddenly discovering this mixture might escape its control.'"

Obama and Merkel both said they would prefer the situation in Ukraine to be settled through diplomacy.

As the crisis in Ukraine has worsened, Merkel has spoken to Putin perhaps more frequently than has any other European leader. Because of this, the U.S. sees her as a critical channel of communication, as well as a key player in the effort to prevent other EU nations from going soft on sanctions.

generations if we do," he said.

In the post-Cold War era, NATO officials have said that they see Russia as a potential strategic partner, and the West has made efforts to increase defense cooperation with its former enemy, to varying degrees of success. But Hagel seemed to question whether that is still a viable path, in light of events in Ukraine.

"Today, NATO must stand ready to revisit the basic principles underlying its relationship with Russia," he said.

The Pentagon chief's remarks came a day after Alexander Vershbow, the deputy secretary-general of NATO, went even further, telling reporters that Russia should now be considered an adversary rather than an alliance partner.

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Crisis spurs Hagel to urge NATO partners to boost security spending

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Friday that Russia will challenge the NATO alliance for years to come, and urged other alliance members to ramp up their defense spending.

Earlier this year, Russia annexed Crimea, and Moscow has massed tens of thousands of troops and other military assets along Ukraine's eastern border. The U.S. and other countries have suggested that pro-Russia separatists fomenting unrest in eastern Ukraine are at least partially controlled by the Kremlin.

To reassure jittery allies who fear Russian aggression, the U.S. has deployed additional troops and aircraft to Poland and the Balkan States. But Hagel said near-term measures aren't suf-

ficient, and he called on other members of NATO to boost their defense spending with an eye on Russian provocations as a problem that won't go away anytime soon.

"Over the long term, we should expect Russia to test our alliance's purpose, stamina, and commitment," Hagel told an audience at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars in Washington on Friday.

Under previous agreements, all NATO members are supposed to be spending at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product on their militaries, but only a handful of the alliance's 28 members have fulfilled their pledges. The Defense Department is hoping that fears stalked by Russia's latest military moves will open a political window for greater European investment in collective defense.

U.S. officials have long complained that other NATO countries haven't shouldered their share of the burden when it comes to alliance security. In his speech, Hagel noted that the U.S. spends three times as much on defense as its other NATO allies put together, despite the fact that the combined GDP of the other 27 members is larger than America's economy.

"In recent years, one of the biggest obstacles to Alliance investment has been a sense that the end of the Cold War ushered in the 'end of history,' an end to insecurity — at least in Europe — and the end from aggression by nation-states. Russia's actions in Ukraine shatter that myth, and usher in bracing new realities," Hagel said.

Hagel called for the inclusion of finance ministers and senior budget officials at a NATO minis-

terial meeting, while arguing that "talking amongst [defense ministers] is no longer good enough."

He said the alliance must beef up its military capabilities, exercises, and joint planning. But he said nonmilitary measures are also needed in the face of Russian aggression.

Hagel emphasized the need to wean Europe off its dependence on Russian energy supplies, noting that the U.S. Department of Energy has conditionally approved export permits for liquefied natural gas that would add up to more than half of Europe's gas imports from Russia.

"Future generations will note whether, at this moment — at this moment of challenge, we summoned the will to invest in our alliance. We must not squander this opportunity or shrink from this challenge. We will be judged harshly by history and by future

MILITARY

Infantry officers tell of 'mad minute' firing of ammunition

By Tom Vanden Brook

USA Today

Troops call it the "mad minute," a short period of intense fire.

Three infantry officers — reacting to a USA Today story about Pentagon problems counting its bullets — recalled their own mad-minute experiences on the firing range at the end of budget cycles.

They took their troops to the range and had them blow through their remaining ammunition. The exercises achieved two aims: Young soldiers and Marines gained proficiency with their weapons, and the mad minutes ensured that not a single bullet was left over. If too many units had surplus ammunition at the end of the year, the officers said, their brigade or division could be issued fewer bullets the following year.

Burning through extra ammo meant that one platoon became expert at firing Claymore mines, anti-personnel munitions that would have been surplus if not used, one officer said. Another learned how to build improvised explosives. The former officers spoke on condition of anonymity because they still serve in the military or do business with the Pentagon.

One former officer remembers two cardinal rules of the range: Plan enough live-fire exercises to shoot every bullet provided for in a fiscal year. Two, when large

sums of ammunition are delivered to the range, nothing should be turned back in lest you be accused of poor planning.

The combination promotes mad minutes. Troops, particularly young ones, eagerly await them. It's what they live for, one officer said, and it's usually done without incident. But not always.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., has called on the Pentagon to do a better job of accounting for its ammunition at the macro level, estimating the waste in millions of dollars. Carper, who chairs the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said bad bookkeeping on ammo threatens the ability of troops to complete their missions.

The Government Accountability Office found that the military's obsolete inventory systems can't keep track of usable, surplus ammunition. That means some could be lost in storage or destroyed.

"This report is a troubling reminder that the Department of Defense has more work to do in managing taxpayer dollars effectively," said Carper, who served as a naval aviator during the Vietnam War.

The effects at the top of the Pentagon from poor accounting of ammunition are fiscal. The effect on the firing range of getting rid of excess ammo can be physical. Two of the officers recalled troops being wounded during mad minutes.

Cruisers go into 'laid up' status at Pearl Harbor

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A 20-year-old guided-missile cruiser will join two other ships in "laid up" status at Pearl Harbor.

The USS Port Royal, along with the USS Lake Erie and the USS Chosin, is among 11 Navy cruisers that will be placed on reduced operating status while they are modernized, the Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Monday.

The Navy has attempted to retire the Port Royal, the newest guided-missile cruiser in the Ti-conderoga class, since it grounded in 2009 off Honolulu Airport's Reef Runway, but Congress has resisted the move.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in February that 11 of 22 cruisers in the fleet would go on reduced-operating status while they are modernized. He said the decision was part of the "difficult choices" the Pentagon faces under budget cuts.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office said in an April report the plan to halve the fleet includes putting the 11 newest cruisers into a long-term phased modernization plan, which is

scheduled to start in 2015.

The upgraded cruisers would be returned to service on a one-to-one basis as older cruisers are retired. Under this plan, the Port Royal would return to active service in 2026 when the USS Chancellorville retires. It will remain on active duty through 2044, 15 years longer than its expected life.

U.S. Rep. Colleen Hanabusa, D-Hawaii, is critical of the plan and expects Congress to oppose it.

She said the Navy is attempting to characterize ship reductions as modernizations.

Retirement of the cruisers, "which is what I expected the modernization to really mean, is going to be detrimental for us in the Pacific," Hanabusa told the (Honolulu) Star-Advertiser. "In addition, of course, we homeport three of them (at Pearl Harbor) and they are fine. There is nothing wrong with them. They've been repaired and they are functioning. So why do we want to do this?"

The Chosin just completed \$107 million in major maintenance two years ago.



Courtesy of U.S. Air Force

An F-35 Joint Strike Fighter test aircraft flies over Fort Worth, Texas.

Price tag skyrockets for military weapons systems

By Christian Davenport

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The costs of the Pentagon's major weapons systems have ballooned nearly half a trillion dollars over their initial price tags, and the 80 programs have average schedule delays of more than two years, according to a report released Wednesday.

The report by the Government Accountability Office came during a congressional hearing in which senators from both parties vented about continued cost overruns, billions of dollars wasted when contracts are canceled and a system that is plagued by a high level of turnover that prevents anyone from being held accountable.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., listed a series of failed programs, including the attempt to replace the fleet of presidential helicopters, saying they were examples of "really unacceptable cost overruns we've seen in the past, and apparently a failure to get a lot of it still under control."

For decades, Congress and the Pentagon have struggled with creating a more efficient system for buying weapons, tanks and airplanes, with limited success. In its report, the GAO noted that "too often we report on the same kinds of problems today that we did over 20 years ago."

But now, the renewed efforts underway in both the House and Senate Armed Services committees and at the Pentagon, come as spending is tightening, which officials say gives an added urgency.

"We are going to have flat defense budgets as far as the eye can see, and the problems we're trying to deal with around the world are not flat," Rep. Mac

Thornberry, R-Texas, who is leading the effort in the House, said in a recent interview. "So the only way to reconcile those two trends is to try to get more defense value out of the money we spend."

During the hearing, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., said that there have been notable successes, the most significant being the 2009 weapons-acquisition reform law, which has helped save \$23 billion. But Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the Pentagon's track record in buying IT systems "remains abysmal."

Frank Kendall III, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics, told the committee that during his 40 years working in procurement, "I've seen any number of attempts to improve defense acquisition. My view is many of the things we have tried have had little discernible impact."

Fixing the problems that plague defense acquisition "isn't as easy as many people think," he said. But he said there has been improvement in recent years and pointed to the Pentagon's Better Buying Power program, which follows "a process of continual improvement that focuses on the areas in which the most progress can be made."

He also said that the process is ultimately "a human endeavor" and that there needs to be more focus on providing incentives and training for contracting officers.

Personnel turnover has been an especially acute problem, the GAO found. Since the position of the undersecretary for acquisition, technology and logistics was created in 1986, the average tenure has been 22 months, accord-

ing to the report.

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, the most expensive weapons program in the Defense Department's history, has had six program managers since 2001.

Part of the problem, many senators lamented, is the way the armed forces shuffle workers into and out of contracting positions. While it is okay to be stationed temporarily at some jobs, which allows servicemen to gain valuable expertise in different areas, senators said, acquisitions is so complicated that it should be staffed with specialists who stay for long periods.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., called the temporary assignments "ludicrous."

"There's no way you can have this many program managers and actually get at what you want to do," she said. "You need continuity. You need expertise. You don't need a new guy every 18 months."

Michael Sullivan, the author of the GAO report, told the committee that the contracting workforce lacks "training and business experience and career opportunities." And he said that the "tenures of program managers are so short and the length of our product developments so long that there is little accountability."

Contractors also have a relationship with their Pentagon counterparts that is "altogether different from a classic free market," his report said. The Pentagon is a single customer with very few prime contractors on which to rely in each industry. The Defense Department and the contractor often develop products together, making the collaborations harder to walk away from.

MILITARY

Gun charges keep Marine in Mexico

By TIM JOHNSON
McClatchy Foreign Staff

MEXICO CITY — Prison authorities in Tijuana, Mexico, have shackled a decorated U.S. Marine veteran of two combat tours in Afghanistan to his cot in a prison infirmary, restraining each of his limbs, on charges of introducing outlawed weapons into Mexico.

The Marine reservist, Andrew Tahmoore, 25, who is from Weston, Fla., outside Miami, drove his black Ford F-150 pickup through the San Ysidro, Calif., border crossing into Tijuana on April 1, carrying his worldly possessions, including three U.S.-registered firearms.

Tahmoore, who suffers from what his mother calls "directional dysfunction," got lost near the border after dark. He and his family say he took a wrong turn into Mexico.

Mexican prosecutors have slapped three firearms charges on him, and his fate has been clouded by an attempt to escape the La Mesa penitentiary April 6 that involved ninja-style scaling of a wall topped with coiled barbed wire.

Tahmoore's situation parallels that of another Florida Marine veteran who was held for four months in a Mexican border prison in 2012 for carrying an antique shotgun in his motor home on his way to surf in Costa Rica.

In a statement that he signed earlier this week, Tahmoore said he had crossed the border inadvertently while he was looking for housing in the San Diego area so he could begin treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder at a nearby Veterans Affairs facility. Tahmoore had received his official PTSD diagnosis on March 20.

"I accidentally drove into Mexico with 3 guns, a rifle (AR-15), a .45 cal pistol and a 12 gauge pump shotgun with no intentions on being in Mexico or being involved in any criminal activity," Tahmoore wrote in a signed privacy waiver this week.

Tahmoore joined the Marines in 2008. He served two combat tours in Afghanistan, winning a rare combat field promotion to sergeant in Helmand province. In 2012, Tahmoore mustered out with an honorable discharge but he remains a reservist with a



FAMILY PHOTO COURTESY OF JILL TAHMOORE/MCT

Sgt. Andrew Tahmoore, shown in a Marine combat vehicle during one of his tours in Afghanistan between 2010 and 2012, is being held in a Tijuana prison on weapons charges.

commitment until 2016.

U.S. officials have visited Tahmoore at least nine times since his arrest the night of April 1, and the U.S. Consulate in Tijuana "is taking all possible steps" to ensure his safety, William W. Whitaker, the American citizen services chief, said in an email to a staff member of Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., that McClatchy obtained.

Tahmoore's mother visited him April 14 at the penitentiary. His mood was grim.

"I would say, precarious at best, fearful, nervous," she said in a telephone interview. "He'd already had his life threatened. Very anxious about the legal process, highly distraught."

More news came this week. Whitaker wrote to Jill Tahmoore to say the consulate had gathered a summary of VA medical records of her son's ailment, and an affidavit, and presented them to the judge.

A trial is set to begin May 28.

Soldier gets life sentence in Ga. militia slayings

The Associated Press

LUOWICHI, Ga. — Saying his mind was scarred by combat and numbed by heroin, an Army soldier told a southeast Georgia judge Thursday that he shot a teenage girl twice in the head because he thought he saw "the glint of a gun" as she opened her car door.

Sgt. Anthony Peden, 28, was sentenced to life in prison nearly a month after he pleaded guilty to murder charges in the December 2011 slayings of Tiffany York, 17, and her boyfriend, former soldier Michael Roark. Prosecutors say the couple was led to the woods near Fort Stewart in Georgia and slain by a group of soldiers to protect an antigovernment militia group they had formed inside the military.

Peden's account sought to minimize his role. He said the soldiers only planned to collect money from the couple. He said someone handed him a gun, and after they drove out to the woods he saw Roark exit his car and get into a struggle with one of the other soldiers.

Three other defendants say Peden shot the girl before she could exit her car, while Pvt. Christopher Salmon shot Roark on his knees.



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MILITARY

3 on leave over Phoenix veteran care claims

By BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Three executives of the veterans' hospital in Phoenix have been placed on administrative leave amid an investigation into allegations of corruption and unnecessary deaths at the facility, federal officials announced Thursday.

Phoenix VA Health Care System Director Sharon Helman and associate director Lance Robinson would be placed on leave "until further notice," U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said. The third employee was not identified in a statement Shinseki issued from Washington.

The Phoenix facility has been under fire in recent weeks over allegations that up to 40 patients may have died because of delays in care and that the hospital kept a secret list of patients waiting for

appointments to hide the treatment delays.

Earlier on Thursday, before the announcement that she would be placed on leave, Helman and the hospital's chief of staff denied any knowledge of a secret list and said they had found no evidence of patient deaths due to delayed care.

"We take those allegations very seriously," Helman told The Associated Press Thursday morning, noting she welcomed an independent review by the VA Office of Inspector General. Helman's office declined to comment.

The claims are the latest to come to light as VA hospitals around the country struggle to handle the huge volume of patients who need medical attention, including aging vets from World War II, Korea and Vietnam and a newer influx from wars during the last decade. In the past year, VA facilities in South Carolina,

Florida, Georgia and Washington state have been linked to delays in patient care or poor oversight.

Shinseki said the move to put the Phoenix officials on leave was requested by the inspector general's office, which has sent investigators to the facility.

"We believe it is important to allow an independent, objective review to proceed," Shinseki said. "These allegations, if true, are absolutely unacceptable and if the Inspector General's investigation substantiates these claims, swift and appropriate action will be taken."

Helman said before the announcement that she takes her job very seriously and is personally offended by the claims of misconduct.

"I have given over 20 years of service to this mission. I am proud to lead this hospital," Helman said. "I have never wavered from

the ethical standards that I have held my entire career, and I will continue to give these veterans what they deserve, which is the best health care."

On Tuesday, three Arizona congressmen called for Helman to step down amid allegations of gross mismanagement and neglect at the facility.

Republican Reps. David Schweikert, Matt Salmon and Trent Franks also sent a letter to Shinseki, asking him to remove Helman and her leadership team.

Salmon said Thursday that the VA chief made the right decision. "Hopefully, this is the first step in rebuilding the trust and restoring the confidence that our Arizona veterans have lost in our VA system," the congressman said in a statement.

But the nation's head of veteran health services told a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing

Wednesday in Washington that a preliminary review found nothing to support the allegations leveled against the Phoenix hospital system and its leadership.

"To date, we have found no evidence of a secret list, and we have found no patients who have died because they have been on a wait list," said Robert Petzel, undersecretary for health at the VA's Veterans Health Administration. Dr. Samuel Foote, who had worked for the Phoenix VA for more than 20 years before retiring in December, brought the allegations to light and said supervisors ignored his complaints. He accused Arizona VA leaders of collecting bonuses for reducing patient wait times, but he said the purported successes resulted from data manipulation rather than improved service for veterans, and that up to 40 patients died while awaiting care.

Court order blocks Russian rocket sales to Air Force

By ANDREW ZAJAC
AND ANDREA TAN
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Billionaire Elon Musk's Space Exploration Technologies won a court order temporarily blocking a Boeing-Lockheed Martin venture from buying Russian-made rocket engines for the U.S. Air Force because they potentially violate federal sanctions.

U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Susan Braden in Washington halted the engine sales until she receives the opinion of the U.S. departments of Treasury, Commerce and State "that any such purchases or payments will not directly or indirectly contravene" President Barack Obama's March 16 order imposing sanctions against Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who heads the country's defense and space industries.

Competition for military satellite launches, which have an estimated value of \$70 billion through 2030 and are the fourth-largest program in the defense budget, could save taxpayers more than \$1 billion per year, according to Musk. SpaceX used April 28 auction the Air Force of illegally shutting it out of the business by giving a monopoly to the Boeing-Lockheed venture, known as United Launch Alliance LLC.

An Air Force representative didn't immediately respond to an e-mail to its media center before regular business hours today seeking comment on the decision.

"ULA is deeply concerned with this ruling and we will work

closely with the Department of Justice to resolve the injunction expeditiously," Kevin MacGarry, ULA general counsel, said in a statement today.

SpaceX's objection to Russian involvement "ignores the potential implications to our national security and our nation's ability to put Americans on board the International Space Station," MacGarry said.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration uses Russian Soyuz rockets to get astronauts to the space station after having ended its shuttle program in 2011.

That dependence was not lost on Rogozin, who responded to an expansion of U.S. sanctions on April 29 with this tweet:

"I suggest the U.S. delivers its astronauts to the ISS with a trampoline."

It's not clear what, if any, impact Braden's ruling will have on ULA operations. The alliance will continue "assuring the safe delivery of the missions we are honored to support," MacGarry said.

ULA has a two-year inventory of the Russian engines in the U.S., according to Jessica Rye, a spokeswoman for alliance.

The engines are made by the Russian government-owned NPO Ergomash.

ULA unit United Launch Services, which holds the contracts being challenged, characterized SpaceX as a passive bystander since 2012 as the Air Force announced its need for launch service, decided on ULA as the sole provider and worked out contract details.



Chrissandra Jackson hugs first lady Michelle Obama, accompanied by Dr. Jill Biden, at the third anniversary of Joining Forces on Wednesday at the American Red Cross Hall of Service in Washington.

First lady: \$160M pledged for vets, families

By NANCY BENAC
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — First lady Michelle Obama announced pledges from foundations and corporations totaling more than \$160 million Wednesday to help veterans and their families get the services they need as the country adjusts to a postwar footing.

Calling this a "pivotal moment for our military families and for our country" as the war in Afghanistan ends, the first lady said military families should never have to face the challenges associated with the transition to civilian life alone.

Appearing at a conference of philanthropic groups, Mrs. Obama warned that with fewer homecoming videos and welcome-home parades for returning troops likely in future years, "we cannot allow ourselves to forget

their service to our country. ... We've got to show our military families that our country is there for them not just while they're in uniform but for the long haul."

The first lady highlighted the launch of the Philanthropy-Joining Forces Impact Pledge, under which more than 30 organizations are making commitments to provide a range of services over

the next five years, including \$62 million in existing commitments and \$102 million in new pledges during the next five years.

Vikki Spruill, CEO of the Council on Foundations, said those making pledges would work in areas including homelessness, employment, training, education and community integration.

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MILITARY

Army halts Morse defense probe, then rescinds order

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army last month temporarily forced its former top sexual assault prosecutor, removed from his job in February after a female colleague said he groped her in 2011, to stop his attorneys from investigating the developing case while the Army proceeded with its own investigation.

According to documents filed in court, the April 3 cease-and-desist order prevented Lt. Col. Jay Morse, former chief of the Trial Counsel Assistance Program, as well as his defense counsel from speaking to any potential witnesses. Several military legal experts told Stars and Stripes they'd never seen an order like it before.

The order was rescinded later in April after Morse and his attorneys protested, saying that it essentially stripped him of the right to be represented by counsel. Army officials, however, said the order was dropped on April 18 because the Army Criminal Investigative Command completed its investigation that day.

Morse has not been charged with a crime.

The documents, filed in the Army Court of Criminal Appeals, were first reported on the Nation-

al Institute of Military Justice's CAAFlog blog.

According to the order by Lt. Col. Mark R. Biehl, a battalion commander in the Army Military District of Washington, "you will not discuss any facet of this case with any witness or potential witness in the case, nor will you conduct any interviews of potential witnesses until CID has completed its investigation. This prohibition also applies to any and all third parties, agents, proxies, or attorneys. ..."

The order followed a complaint from the alleged victim after she found out Morse's counsel had contacted potential witnesses, Biehl wrote in another memo to Morse that appeared on CAAFlog.

Col. Josslyn Aberle, a spokeswoman for the Military District of Washington, said the order was based on a 2013 ALARACT — an all-Army message from top brass — instructing Army commanders not to conduct concurrent sexual assault investigations with CID.

The Army decided the policy could also be used to limit defense actions, she said, and ordered Morse and his counsel to back off until CID finished up. CID represents neither the prosecution nor the defense, she said.

"Particularly with these cases, we want to make sure that it is the

least traumatic for all parties involved as possible, and it's a thorough investigation conducted by authorities who are trained to do these investigations to ensure justice is served for all parties," she said.

The situation is a reflection of the chaotic state surrounding the military's handling of sexual assault, military legal experts said. Reports of sexual assault have been rising, with the Pentagon this week reporting a 50 percent increase in reports of sexual assault and misconduct from the previous year.

Statements from military brass and even President Barack Obama about the need to vigorously prosecute sexual offenses have become an issue in prosecutions, with defense attorneys arguing it unfairly stacks the deck against defendants.

The order to Morse helps create the impression of a "witch hunt" against anyone accused of sexual wrongdoing, said Greg Rinckey, a former Army judge advocate whose firm, Tully Rinckey, represents military defendants.

"It almost appears they're attempting to inhibit his ability to put on a defense," he said. "Essentially they're saying we want to talk to everyone and get their stories locked in, and then you can



Facebook

The president of the National Security Law Society, Edgar Gonzales, and the president of the International Law Society, Lilian Audu, are pictured with Lt. Col. Jay Morse.

go talk to them."

Orders of no contact between defendants and specific witnesses are not uncommon, particularly if there had been intimidation or harassment, Rinckey said. But he said he'd never heard of a blanket ban covering even attorneys when no such complaints had been lodged.

Eugene Fidell, who teaches military law at Yale University and is former president of the National Institute of Military Justice, said he couldn't conceive of a legitimate reason to prevent a defense attorney from investigating allegations. "The episode has caused a great deal of consternation among

military lawyers, who are trying to figure out how this happened and what it means more broadly," he said.

Fidell said he's glad the order was withdrawn but would have liked to have seen it knocked down by a military judge.

"In the absence of a court order, nothing really prevents it from happening again," he said.

Fidell recommended the Army Judge Advocate General issue a statement reaffirming "that the accused in the military justice system continue to have full rights to defend themselves."

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Work confirmed to DOD post

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate late Wednesday confirmed Robert O. Work, a retired Marine colonel and former Navy undersecretary, as the next deputy secretary of defense.

Work will step into his new role at a time the Pentagon is beset by a falling defense budget, uncertainty over key strategic issues and rolling military personnel issues ranging from compensation to sexual assault in the ranks.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel issued a statement Wednesday evening hailing his new right-hand man.

"Bob is an admired and tested leader, with a distinguished career of public service, including during his time as an officer in the Marine Corps and as undersecretary of the Navy," Hagel said. "He brings to this position a depth of experience, knowledge, and expertise that will greatly benefit the Department of Defense."

Work has been serving recently as chief executive officer of the Center for a New American Security, a defense-oriented Washington think tank with close ties to the Obama administration.

From 2009 to 2013, Work served as undersecretary of the Navy, where he was known for his scrutiny of budgets and deep analysis of the requirements of U.S. naval power.

In 2008, he headed the Navy portion of then President-elect Barack Obama's DOD Defense Transition Team.

Work retired in 2001 after 27 years in the Marine Corps, capped off his time in uniform as military assistant to Navy Secretary Richard Danzig. Before that, he commanded Camp Fuji, Japan, and had been an artillery battalion commander, among other assignments.

He is taking over for acting Deputy Defense Secretary Christine Fox, who filled in after Hagel's former deputy, Ashton Carter, retired in December.

"I am grateful to Christine for her wise



Col. Robert O. Work

counsel, steady leadership, and her constant dedication to our men and women in uniform," Hagel said in a statement to the press. "She will be greatly missed."

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2nd pilot barred from F-22

A second F-22 Raptor pilot who spoke publicly about safety issues with the fighter jet was barred from flying the plane not long after appearing on national television two years ago, his attorney said Thursday.

The revelation came the same day that Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., and an Illinois congressman pressed Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to speed up what is now a 2-year-old investigation into whether the Virginia Air National Guard pilots were wrongly punished for appearing on CBS' "60 Minutes" program in May 2012.

Maj. Jeremy Gordon and Capt. Joshua Wilson, both assigned to the Guard's 149th Fighter Squadron at Langley Air Force Base, described how the plane's defective oxygen system was endangering pilots, noting that many aviators were not willing to speak publicly for fear of reprisals.

The men were treated differently in the spring of 2012 and in the months that followed the broadcast.

Gordon, 38, a fighter jet combat veteran, remains in the squadron, flying a T-38 trainer jet.

From wire reports

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MILITARY

“Don’t ask, don’t tell” still a reality

For transgender troops, honesty can mean the end of a military career

By ERNESTO LONDONO
The Washington Post

It felt like the pinnacle of his career, working the graveyard shift in a windowless plywood facility in Afghanistan, monitoring a Special Operations mission as it unfolded in real time on grainy video feeds.

After spending hundreds of thousands of dollars training Landon Wilson to intercept communications, the U.S. military was capitalizing on its investment in the young sailor, already regarded as a rising star in a critical, highly technical field.

But shortly after 2 a.m. on Dec. 7, when a sunset tapped him on the back and summoned him outside, one of the secrets that mattered most to Wilson began to unravel.

“This Navy record says female, but this paper says male,” the grim-faced sergeant major noted, displaying two sets of personnel records. “So, what are you?”

After an awkward pause, Wilson, who joined the Navy as a woman but who has long felt like a man, provided the answer that set in motion the end of his military career: “I am male.”

More than two years after the repeal of the law that barred gay men and lesbians from serving in the military openly, transgender servicemembers can still be dismissed from the force without question, the result of a decades-old policy that dates back to an era when gender nonconformity was widely seen as a mental illness.

The policy, however, is now coming under scrutiny as servicemembers such as Wilson become more visible. Transgender servicemembers are increasingly undergoing procedures to align their bodies more closely with the genders with which they identify. Medical experts, meanwhile, are urging the Defense Department to rescind a policy they view as discriminatory and outdated, noting that some of America’s closest allies, including Canada, Britain and Australia, have done so seamlessly.

Although the American Psychiatric Association revised its manual last year to indicate gender nonconformity is “not in itself a mental disorder,” the Defense Department relies on guidelines that describe transgender individuals as sexual deviants, and their condition as a “paraphilia.”

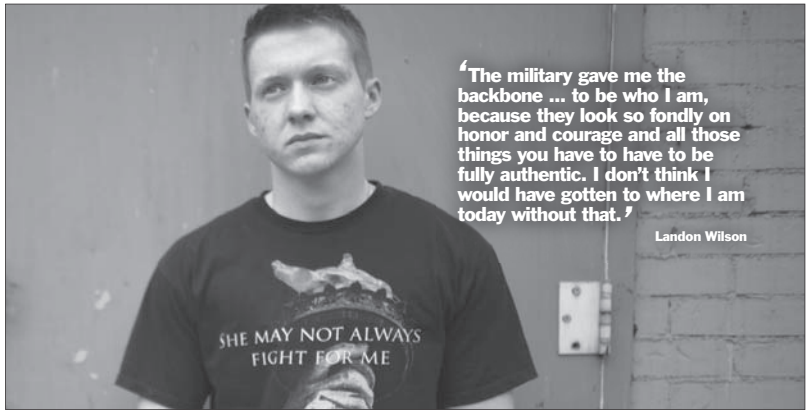
“It is a terrible tragedy our people are facing in our great country for no other reason than the fact that they want to express their gender,” said Joycelyn Elders, a former U.S. surgeon general who later co-chaired a study that recommended the military lift its ban on transgender personnel. “We could find no credible medical reason for why transgender persons should be discharged or not allowed in the service.”

Drawn to military life

Wilson, 24, was born in Warner Robins, a small city in central Georgia that revolved around the namesake Air Force base. An only child raised by a single mother, he recalls feeling he had been assigned the wrong sex as early as infancy.

“Hey, I’m a boy,” he recalls blurring out to his mother as a 4-year-old. “The reaction I got was one that even at that young age made me aware that that was not what you were supposed to feel like. So I suppressed it for as long as I could.”

A military career appealed to him for the honor that comes with service. But there



Landon Wilson

YANA PASKOVA/The Washington Post

Landon Wilson moved to New York after being discharged from the military when it was discovered that he is transgender.

was another draw, one that researchers say explains why the percentage of transgender people in the U.S. military is twice as high as it is in the civilian population.

“It comes down to the masculinity of it all,” Wilson explained. Men struggling with their temptation to transition to women have told researchers that they see military culture as a barrier to keep them from taking the daunting step. In the reverse scenario, Wilson said, it’s an easy environment to fit into. “But I think a lot of people look to the military for a new beginning,” he added.

As he enlisted, he was urged to become a cryptologic technician. By Wilson’s estimate, the Navy spent at least a half-million dollars getting him the highest-level security clearance in government and training him for an intelligence job.

He developed a reputation as a talented, meticulous, hard-working sailor, said Shayne Allen, a former colleague who was stationed with Wilson at the Navy Information Operations Command in Hawaii.

“Landon was someone who you don’t see a lot of in the military these days,” Allen said. “He not only checked all the boxes, but went above and beyond.”

A few months after arriving in Hawaii in May 2012, having read up extensively on the issue and connected online with others who had transitioned, Wilson decided to act. He obtained a formal diagnosis of gender identity disorder from a counselor, a step transgender people often take before undergoing hormone therapy. In November,

Wilson began taking hormones once a week — which he described as terrifying and exhilarating.

“I knew everything that was on the table, but at the same time it was completely worth it,” he said. “It was like taking my first breath.”

The effects were almost immediate for Wilson. The injections deepened his voice and molded his face structure and body shape. His muscles and strength grew, along with light facial hair.

Conflicting gender records

Although transgender servicemembers were avid supporters of the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell,” activists who led the effort were careful not to inject the plight of transgender servicemembers into the debate.

“There was a certain reticence to discuss it in any official way with stakeholders for fear of complicating the repeal of don’t ask, don’t tell,” said Allyson Robinson, a former Army officer and transgender activist. “There was a very clear awareness among all the organizations that worked on don’t ask, don’t tell that this issue was going to remain outstanding.”

Colleagues noticed Wilson’s physical changes, but no one seemed to care. He confided in a few people in the military last year, including Allen.

“I said, no harm no foul there,” the 20-year-old said in a phone interview, describing his reaction. “To me you’ve always been Wilson, whether you’re a male or a female.”

That distinction became strikingly blurred last summer when Wilson volunteered for a year-long deployment in Afghanistan. When he arrived at a Navy medical processing center in Virginia, he was assigned to male barracks and given male uniforms on the first day. That afternoon, medical personnel noticed paperwork indicating a female and ordered a pregnancy test, but inexplicably kept him housed and clothed as a man.

On Nov. 16, he was put to work just hours after arriving in Afghanistan. During 12-hour night shifts that began at 4 p.m., he was responsible for intercepting communications by militants in order to guide Special Operations troops carrying out missions. For the first time in his career, the intelligence he was gathering was being put to immediate use and resulting in constant

expressions of gratitude. Feeling indispensable in a critical job, Wilson started worrying less about being discovered.

An early exit

The secret was exposed in late November when Wilson’s commanders in Afghanistan spoke to his superiors in Hawaii to make arrangements for a promotion he was due. Officials in Hawaii used female pronouns to refer to Wilson, while their counterparts at Bagram were referring to a male petty officer third class.

After Wilson came clean, commanders in Afghanistan decided to send him home. Within six hours, he was packed and loaded onto a plane. As the sun rose that morning, his prevailing concern was who would fill his slot inside the ramshackle intelligence fusion cell.

“My main concern was not: I could potentially be losing my career, but what about the guys on the ground,” he said, noting that there was no one else on base trained to do the job.

When he arrived in Hawaii a few days later, his commanders promoted him. Weeks later, he received a commendation letter from Vice Adm. Jan Tighe, who oversaw his unit. Superiors were respectful and at times seemed apologetic, said Wilson, who told a senior military telling him: “You know, we are overreacting because we have no idea what to do with you.”

After weeks of deliberations, a military lawyer gave Wilson a choice: “You can transition, or you can serve,” the sailor said he was told.

That wasn’t a choice to Wilson, who soon signed his honorable discharge papers and left Hawaii.

A Navy spokesman said that officials in Wilson’s command did not wish to be interviewed about the sailor’s ordeal.

Having kept his security clearance, Wilson could easily return to the same line of work for an intelligence agency or even the Pentagon, as a civilian. But he yearns to wear the uniform again.

“The military gave me the backbone to transition, to be who I am, because they look so fondly on honor and courage and all those things you have to have to be fully authentic,” he said. “I don’t think I would have gotten to where I am today without that.”

Pentagon’s gender stance

A Pentagon spokesman, Lt. Col. Cathy Wilkinson, said the Defense Department does not know how many servicemembers have been discharged for being transgender. She said the Pentagon has no plan to change its medical qualification standards based on the changes to the psychiatric association’s entry on gender disorder, but she noted that medical policies are being constantly reviewed.

In doing these reviews, the department considers that servicemembers must serve in austere environments, many of which make necessary and ongoing treatments related to sex reassignment and many other conditions untenable,” she said in an emailed statement.

Ernesto Londono

NATION

States' health care sign-up differences could affect rates

BY NOAM N. LEVY

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sign-ups for insurance through President Barack Obama's health law varied widely across the country in the first year for the online marketplaces, according to a government report released Thursday that shows consumers flocked to coverage in some states but not in others.

Those differences could exacerbate regional variations in premiums next year, with potentially steep rate increases for consumers in states with low enrollment.

"While there is a lot of focus on the national numbers, it's what is happening state by state that will affect how much premiums rise next year," said Kaiser Family Foundation Senior Vice President Larry Levitt, an insurance expert. "Insurers set premiums based on who signs up in a state. If lots of healthy people enrolled in California, that doesn't spill over onto Texas and help the risk pool there."

Enrollment, which began Oct. 1, did well in California, Vermont and Rhode Island, where more than 40 percent of each state's eligible residents enrolled. All three run their own marketplaces.

California, which had 1.4 million sign-ups, accounted for 1 in 6 people who signed up nationwide, according to the report from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Sign-ups lagged most in some smaller states — including South Dakota, North Dakota, Wyoming and Oklahoma — and in states that struggled to run their own marketplaces rather than rely on the federal government. These include Massachusetts, Hawaii, Maryland and Minnesota.

Altogether, 17 states enrolled fewer than 20 percent of those eligible to get coverage on the marketplaces, according to estimates from the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Contrary to expectations, a

number of states whose elected leaders have fought the Affordable Care Act also recorded very high enrollment, including Florida, where nearly 1 million people selected health plans.

In addition to affecting rates, the mixed enrollment picture may also widen existing disparities in Americans' health, depending on where they live.

Enrollment in Medicaid is already diverging as only about half the states have elected to expand their programs to cover most low-income residents, an option allowed by the law.

National surveys by Gallup show that the uninsured rate is falling three times faster in states that are expanding Medicaid and running their own marketplaces. Residents of communities that have higher levels of insurance coverage typically have fewer problems seeing the doctor and get more recommended medical care, research shows. They also tend to live longer.

"It doesn't matter how good the care is in a particular state. If people can't get in the door, they can't receive high-quality care," said David Radley, a researcher at the Commonwealth Fund, a nonpartisan foundation that has extensively analyzed regional variations in health systems.

The Obama administration and other supporters of the law celebrated the national tally, which topped 8 million through April 19, 1 million more than government projections.

The flood of sign-ups in late March and in the extended April enrollment period included many younger consumers, who were seen as essential to holding down premiums.

The report also indicates that national enrollment in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program increased by 4.8 million from Oct. 1 to the end of March as low-income Americans signed up for the programs largely because of the Affordable Care Act.

in time to help save the lives of U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. He blamed the State Department for not making stronger requests for action.

A few hours later, the powerful chairman of the Armed Services panel, Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., challenged the testimony of Lovell, who was in U.S. Africa Command's headquarters in Germany monitoring the attack.

The general "did not serve in a capacity that gave him reliable insight into operational options available to commanders during the attack, nor did he offer spe-



MIKE GROLL/AP

Sarah Keegan of Windham, N.Y., holds her son, Kevin, as she fills out paperwork during a job fair April 22 at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, N.Y.

US adds 288k jobs in April, largest increase in 2 years

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers added a robust 288,000 jobs in April, the most in two years, the strongest evidence to date that the economy is picking up after a brutal winter slowed growth.

The Labor Department also said Friday that the unemployment rate sank to 6.3 percent, its lowest level since September 2008, from 6.7 percent in March. But the drop occurred because the number of people working or seeking work fell sharply. People aren't counted as unemployed if they're not looking for a job.

In addition to the burst of hiring in April, employers added more jobs in February and March than previously estimated. The job to-

als for those two months were revised up by a combined 36,000.

Employers have now added an average of 238,000 jobs the past three months, up from 167,000 in the previous three.

"Not only is job growth continuing, but it is accelerating," said Patrick O'Keefe, director of economic research at the accounting and consulting firm CohnReznick.

Sal Guatieri, an economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the surge in hiring "signals that American companies are optimistic the economy will snap back smartly after the largely weather-related slump in the first quarter."

Hiring last month was broad-based and included higher-paying jobs: Manufacturing gained 12,000, construction 32,000. Professional and technical services,

which include accounting and engineering positions, added 25,100 jobs. The number of government jobs grew 15,000, mostly at the local level.

One sour note: Average hourly pay was unchanged at \$24.31. Average wages have risen just 1.9 percent in the past 12 months, just above the annual inflation rate of 1.5 percent.

The fall in the unemployment rate was due mainly to the exodus of people who stopped looking for work. O'Keefe said he was surprised by the 806,000 drop in the number of Americans either with a job or seeking one. But he noted that that figure is volatile from month and month and that during the first three months of 2014, nearly 1.3 million people had poured into the labor force.

General's testimony on Benghazi attack draws rebuke

BY DEB RIECHMANN

AND DONNA CASSATA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A retired U.S. general came under sharp criticism from a Republican committee chairman on Thursday after testifying that the Obama administration reacted weakly to the deadly 2012 attack on the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya.

Retired Brig. Gen. Robert Lovell, the star witness at a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee hearing, testified that U.S. forces "should have tried" to get to the outpost

cific courses of action not taken," McKeon said.

The disagreement muddled a Republican attempt to raise fresh questions about the Obama administration's handling of the Sept. 11, 2012, assault by armed militants. The GOP has accused the administration of downplaying a terrorist attack just weeks before the election.

On Thursday, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a frequent critic of the Obama administration's foreign policy in general and its handling of the Benghazi attack in particular, said White House officials who lied about the attack are "scumbags." He made the



Graham

remark in an interview with radio host Mike Gallagher.

Lovell testified that it was clear that the attack was hostile action and not a protest run

amok, as the Obama administration initially described it.

"Four individuals died. We obviously did not respond in time to get there," he said.

"There was a lot of looking to

the State Department for what it was that they wanted, and in the deference to the Libyan people and the sense of deference to the desires of the State Department," he said.

Asked whether the military was allowed to adequately respond, Lovell said it was not. "The military could have made a response of some sort," he said.

McKeon's statement disputed Lovell's assertions based on his committee's interviews with more than a dozen witnesses in the operational chain of command and its review of thousands of pages of transcripts, emails and other documents.

NATION

New online tool helps officers collect evidence

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An annual spring party in a Southern California beach town devolved into a riot last month when revelers turned violent, rocking cars, smashing windows and throwing rocks. Dozens were injured and about 50 people ended up in the hospital, including several police officers.

Today, as authorities seek help with the investigation in Isla Vista, they're employing a new online and mobile app that designers say was created specifically for this type of situation.

"When the public really wants to catch these bad guys as badly as we do, this is the mechanism," said Los Angeles Sheriff's Cmdr. Scott Edson, who helped conceptualize the system in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon bombings. "They can

help us by sending us pictures and video."

The innovation, known as LEEDIR, the Large Emergency Event Digital Information Repository, pairs an app with cloud storage to help police use smartphones as tools to gather evidence.

Proponents say the crowdsourcing system gives authorities a secure, central repository for the countless electronic tips that can come in during a crisis. And since it uses remote database servers that police access online, floods of data won't cause system crashes or be expensive to store. Most agencies, Edson said, "don't have lots of bandwidth lying around."

Privacy advocates criticize the app as overly broad, saying it subjects innocent people to police scrutiny and probably won't produce much good evidence.

"There's a reason that we pay profes-

sionals to work in police departments," said Nate Cardozo, a civil liberties attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation. "And there's a reason we don't crowd-source photo lineups and the like — crowds aren't good at it."

Edson said he took note during the aftermath of the Boston attacks last year when authorities were inundated with videos and photos from people at the scene of the blasts. He figured a new tool could help streamline digital evidence-gathering. "It seemed like the perfect opportunity to go to the private sector," he said.

Edson connected with Culver City, Calif.-based tech startup CitizenGlobal Inc. and Amazon Web Services to design the system as a public-private partnership offered free to authorities and members of the public.

"With tens of millions of smartphones in use in the U.S., it's a virtual certainty that citizens will be taking videos and photos at any terrorist attack, large-scale emergency or natural disaster," CitizenGlobal co-CEO George D. Crowley Jr. said in a statement when the system was announced in November.

He said "real-time access to such content has, too often, been a matter of luck or chance" and this system will improve that process.

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office became the first agency to try out the technology after the Isla Vista violence, though results have been mixed. Spokeswoman Kelly Hoover said the system has been easy to navigate but that they've received only a handful of submissions because it's so new.

Derailment underscores area's lack of resources

By ALAN SUDERMAN
AND LARRY O'DELL
The Associated Press

LYNCHBURG, Va. — Across the state on the same rail line where a train loaded with highly combustible crude oil derailed, a fire chief sees the potential for a nightmare scenario: a blaze his crews don't have the means to put out, threatening a colonial-era tourist attraction and one of the nation's oldest institutions of higher learning.

No one was hurt or killed when a train derailed in Lynchburg, but emergency officials say it underscores the fact that many departments don't have the resources to deal with such an accident along a busy route for hauling oil from the booming Bakken oil fields in the northern U.S. tier and Canada.

"It definitely raises concerns," said Williamsburg Fire Chief William Dent. "We have some minimal resources here."

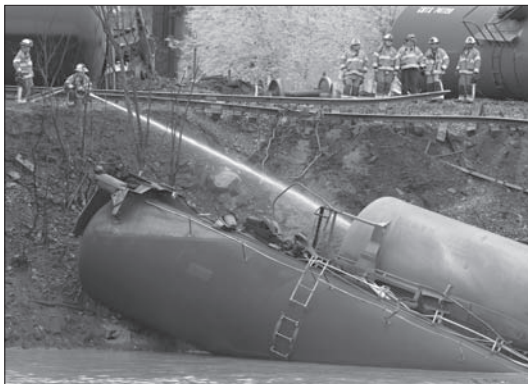
The worst-case scenario for his department, Dent said, would be an oil train derailment on a stretch of CSX track passing between the College of William & Mary and the popular Williamsburg historic area. Some buildings on both sides would have to be evacuated, and the department would have to call on neighboring localities for help responding to the disaster.

Lynchburg officials evacuated some buildings and let the fire burn out, but Richmond Fire Chief Robert Creecy said a more aggressive response would be required if an oil train plunged from the elevated CSX track dissecting Virginia's capital. The track spans Interstate 95 and like the stretch in Lynchburg, grazes the edge of the James River.

Fred Millar, a consultant to localities and others on the rail transport of chemicals, said the possibility of an oil train plunging from Richmond's elevated tracks was raised during a recent safety forum in Washington.

"Someone said it would be like a 747 crashing into your city," Millar said.

Richard Edinger, assistant fire chief in the Richmond suburb of Chesterfield



PHOTOS BY STEVE HELBER/AP

Firefighters and rescue workers tend to the area where several CSX tanker cars carrying crude oil derailed and caught fire along the James River near downtown Lynchburg, Va., on Wednesday.



Survey crews launch boats to look over tanker cars after the incident. Virginia state officials are trying to determine the environmental impact of the derailment.

County, said no fire department except those at some refineries has sufficient equipment and materials to deal with exploding oil-filled tank cars.

Edinger, who also serves as vice chairman of the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Hazardous Materials Committee, said emergency responders have long been aware of the threat posed by the transport of crude oil.

"What's new to this picture is the scale, the amount of product coming through,"

he said. "That's the game changer."

Fire chiefs said firefighters receive training on responding to oil tanker fires — Williamsburg just conducted an exercise March 27 based on a simulated derailment of Bakken crude, Dent said — but it hasn't received any special emphasis.

"These are low-frequency, high-consequence incidents," Edinger said. "When looking at all you need to purchase and train on, this is one of them but it doesn't always make the highest priority."

WWII vets held in Switzerland caught POW status

By AARON GREGG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sgt. Alva Moss was 20 when his World War II B-24 bomber took fire over Allach, Germany. He and the crew were forced to bail out over Switzerland, an officially neutral country during the war.

With his legs filled with shrapnel, Moss parachuted into a tree, where Swiss police would later find him. He was put up in a resort hotel in the Swiss Alps, fed military rations and offered the best of Swiss medical care. He would have to wait out the war there in internment, Swiss and U.S. officials said.

But Moss wanted to return to the front lines. As soon as he was healthy, he jumped out a window with a group of British airmen and headed for the border, hopping trains and dodging police on his way back to his unit, which was stationed at an airport just across the Italian border. But border guards caught up to him, and Moss was shipped to Wauwilermoos Prison Camp. There he lived the life of a POW, becoming part of a little-known piece of WWII history.

He and 160 other Americans held at the camp were never officially recognized as prisoners of war because Switzerland was not at war with the United States.

On Wednesday, however, the Department of Defense made a correction. It awarded the United States Prisoner of War Medal to the eight surviving prisoners of Wauwilermoos camp. They were among 143 honored.

Gen. Mark Welsh III, Air Force chief of staff, teared up as he pinned the medals on the airmen, now in their late 80s and 90s. Some were in wheelchairs or hunched over metal walkers as they made their way to Welsh.

Along with Moss, the living veterans honored were James Misuraca, James Moran, Paul Gambianni, James Mahon, John Fox, William Blackburn and George Thursby. Staff Sgt. Joseph Sinitky was honored posthumously, along with 134 others. (The remaining airmen have yet to have their status fully verified.)

"This is a great time for us," Moss said Wednesday, his medal gleaming from the lapel of his suit jacket. "Everyone was to gether again and there were no slackers."

WORLD

Reports: Cease-fire reached in Syrian city

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC
AND DIAA HADID
The Associated Press

HOMS, Syria — Syria's government and rebels agreed to a cease-fire Friday in the battleground city of Homs to allow hundreds of fighters holed up in its old quarters to evacuate, a move that would surrender almost total control of the city to forces loyal to President Bashar Assad.

The capture of Homs, Syria's third-largest city, would be a significant victory for Assad, weeks before presidential elections set for June 3 — if the agreement goes through and rebel fighters leave.

The 48-hour cease-fire deal came after weeks of unprecedented pounding of rebel-held districts by government forces. One Homs-based opposition activist said it was a bitter moment for the rebels, who have been barricaded in 13 neighborhoods around Homs's historic center. "This isn't what we wanted, but it's all we could get," Beibars Tilawi told *The Associated Press* in a Skype interview. "The regime wanted to take control of the heart of the revolution."

Evacuations may start on Saturday, he said.

Residents of Homs, in the central western plains of Syria, were among the first to rise fiercely against Assad's rule three years ago, earning it the nickname of the "capital of the revolution." After waves of anti-Assad protests by its residents, rebels seized control of much of the city, and Homs quickly became the focus of the worst violence of the uprising, now in its fourth year.

Homs, about 80 miles north of Damascus, is particularly important for its centrality. It links the capital with Aleppo in the north — the country's largest city and another key battleground.

Large swaths of Homs have been blasted into rubble as Assad's forces engaged in grueling urban warfare trying to wrest it back. For more than a year, government troops have blockaded rebels inside a string of districts spread over some 3 miles, causing widespread hunger and weakening the fighters.

Heavy airstrikes and artillery bombardment of rebel-held areas intensified in the past few weeks as government troops won other victories further south near Damascus and the Lebanon border, hurting supply lines. Rebels outside Homs did not come to the aid of the fighters within, and in the past few months, hundreds of fighters surrendered to Assad-led forces, activists said.

But a hard-core group remained fighting, dispatching explosive-rigged cars into government-controlled districts of Homs, killing dozens of people, mostly civilians. Most recently, a double car bombing on Tuesday killed over 50 people.



People gather at the site of a car bomb explosion in Abuja, Nigeria, on Thursday.

Nigeria car bomb kills at least 19

BY BASHIR ADIGUN
AND MICHELLE FAUL
The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — The death toll from a car bomb that exploded on a busy road in Nigeria's capital rose to at least 19 overnight, with 66 people wounded, police said Friday from the city that within days hosts an international conference.

The bomb was driven near a checkpoint where traffic built up, right across the road from a busy bus station where a massive explosion on April 14 killed at least 75 people. That blast was claimed by the Islamic extremist Boko Haram terrorist network in a video April 19 in which the group threatened further assaults.

When he heard Thursday night's blast, roadside fruit vendor Babangida Bello just started running. "I was confused and lost in a gutter," he told *The Associated Press* on Friday. "I saw a man that was killed by flying metal which cut deep into his head. I also saw a commercial motorcycle rider who died when the car exploded."

In a separate development, police said the number of missing girls kidnapped from a school by the zealots has risen to 276 — an increase of more than 30 over the previous estimate.

Police Commissioner Tanko Lawan said the actual number of girls and young women abducted the night of April 14 was more than 300, with the number who have escaped also rising, to 53.

He told a news conference Thursday night in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state in the northeast, that the figures keep increasing because students from other schools were brought into one school for final exams last month after all schools in Borno state were shut because of attacks by Islamic extremists.

The attacks and the military's failure to rescue the teenagers have gravely undermined confidence in the government and the military, which had been claiming to have contained the 5-year-old Islamic uprising to a remote northeastern corner of the country.

Hundreds of miles away in

Abducted girls forced to marry rebel captors

The Associated Press

LAGOS, Nigeria — Scores of girls and young women kidnapped from a school in Nigeria are being forced to marry their Islamic extremist abductors, a civic organization reported Wednesday.

At the same time, the Boko Haram terrorist network is negotiating over the students' fate and is demanding an unspecified ransom for their release, a Borno state community leader told *The Associated Press*.

He said the Wednesday night message from the abductors also claimed that two of the girls have died from snake bites.

The message was sent to a member of a presidential committee mandated last year to mediate a ceasefire with the Islamic extremists, said the civic leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak about the talks.

The news of negotiations comes as parents say the girls are being sold into marriage to Boko Haram militants. The students are being paid 2,000 naira (\$12) to marry the fighters, Halite Aliyu, of the Borno-Yobe People's Forum, told *The Associated Press*. She said the parents' information about mass weddings is coming from villagers in the Sambisa Forest, where Boko Haram is known to have hideouts.

Africa, with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang as an honored guest. The forum will be in Abuja, and Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan last week assured delegates they would be safe. It attracts world leaders, policymakers, philanthropists and business leaders to discuss Africa's economic growth prospects.

The Thursday explosion occurred in a working-class suburb just a 15-minute drive from the presidential villa and the hotel venue of the conference.

Police Superintendent Frank Mba told reporters Friday the toll is up to 19 dead. He said 66 people were wounded and taken to the hospitals, which have discharged six of them. He also said six cars were burned up in the blast.

He said police discovered three unexploded IEDs at the scene. Islamic militants in Nigeria often time secondary explosions to target rescuers and others drawn to a bombing.

Witnesses said a car laden with explosives drove close to the checkpoint, and a man jumped out and ran as it blew up. A deafening explosion was followed by smaller ones as other cars caught fire and fuel tanks exploded, the witnesses said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fears for their safety.

Obiora Enechike, who suffered injuries to his head and one hand, felt the shock wave after hearing a big bang. "I was trapped inside the car. I had to jump out of the car from one of the windows," he said of a lucky escape.

While there was no immediate claim for Thursday's bombing, it bears all the hallmarks of Boko Haram, whose name means "Western education is sinful." The group wants to create an Islamic state in Nigeria, which it claims would halt crippling corruption that keeps 70 percent of the people in Africa's richest nation impoverished.

Every time the military trumpets a success against the militants, they seem to step up the tempo and deadliness of attacks. More than 1,500 people have died in the Islamic uprising this year, compared to 3,600 between 2010 and 2013.

S. Sudan agrees to talk peace

BY LARA JAKES
The Associated Press

JUBA, South Sudan — South Sudan's president agreed Friday to meet with his rival as soon as next week to jump-start peace talks that have been stalled for months, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said, potentially laying the groundwork for a new government to bring the world's newest nation out of bloodshed.

Kerry met for about 90 minutes with President Salva Kiir in his lush office compound in the capital, Juba, and later emerged to announce a tentative agreement for the peace talks in a ceasefire discussions. The American diplomat said he hoped to speak to Machar later Friday.

"The unspeakable human costs that we are seeing over the course of the last months, and which could even grow if they fail to sit down, are unacceptable to the global community," Kerry told reporters after his meeting. "Before the promise of South Sudan's future is soaked in more blood, President Kiir and the opposition must work immediately for cessation of hostilities and to move toward an understanding about future governance for the country."

Kiir, who wore his trademark black cowboy hat when he welcomed Kerry to Juba, did not attend the press briefing.

Kerry said a cease-fire would likely lead to a transitional government in South Sudan but declined to comment on whether Kiir or Machar could have a role in the country's future leadership.

If the peace talks happen, they would mark a turning point in nearly six months of horrific fighting that has largely broken down along ethnic lines between rival Dinka and Nuer tribes. The violence has been compared to the threat of genocide and could also lead to famine later this year since farmers, who are among the nearly 1 million South Sudanese who have fled their homes, have had to abandon their crops.

Thousands have been killed in the fighting, which began when Kiir, a Dinka, accused Machar, a Nuer, of plotting a coup to seize power last December.

An earlier ceasefire agreement, reached in January, was abandoned within days.

STARS AND STRIPES.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sen. McCarthy wasn't totally wrong

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By CATHY YOUNG

Not many people get to lend their name to both an era and a mindset. In the case of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, a key figure in the Army-McCarthy hearings that began 60 years ago this week — and which precipitated the downfall of the anticommunist crusader — the honor is dubious at best. But the legacy of McCarthyism is still surrounded by myths and controversies across the political spectrum.

In popular consciousness and mainstream popular culture, McCarthy's activities are treated as a sweeping, malicious hunt against dissenters, people stigmatized solely for their political beliefs, and bystanders caught up in the dragnet of anticommunist paranoia. (McCarthy's role is often conflated with that of the House Un-American Activities Committee, to which he had no formal connection.) The 1954 hearings, related to claims of communist infiltration of the Army, are best remembered for chief Army counsel Joseph Welch's stinging rebuke of McCarthy over a character attack on one of his aides: "Have you no sense of decency, sir?" It has become an iconic moment of the triumph of good over evil.

But while there is no question that McCarthy was a grandstanding bully, this black-and-white picture is not entirely accurate. The witch-hunt metaphor somewhat obscures the fact that, unlike witchcraft, communist infiltration and espionage in the United States were a real phenomenon. Based on documents made available after the collapse of the Soviet Union, U.S. Library of Congress historian John Earl Haynes concluded that of the 159 people identified as subversives on lists cited by McCarthy, nine had almost definitely aided in Soviet espionage (and many others could be considered security risks for various reasons).

By JOHN M. CRISP

A familiar battle is brewing in New Jersey, where state law requires the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in public school classrooms. An anonymous atheist family is teaming up with the American Humanist Association to sue a local school district, arguing that the phrase "under God" in the Pledge "marginalizes atheist and humanist kids as something less than ideal patriots."

This is another installment in the long legal history of battles between citizens who prefer not to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and citizens who want everyone to.

The conflict is based on a poignant question: Can a citizen decline to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and still be a patriotic American?

Of course he can. I haven't recited the Pledge in years and have no plans to start. But surely my patriotic credentials are acceptable: I'm a U.S. Navy veteran and a reliable voter. I observe all laws and pay my taxes and grazing fees. I always watch the State of the Union address, and I'm a sucker for high-flying, aspirational national rhetoric. I feel a proud twinge when the national anthem is played before a ballgame.

But I'm no big fan of the Pledge of Allegiance. Its origins are dubious. Many assume that it dates back to our nation's founding, but actually it was written in 1892 by Francis Bellamy, a Christian socialist. Bellamy was responding to an ex-



Courtesy of the Library of Congress

The legacy of Sen. Joseph McCarthy, a central figure in the Army-McCarthy hearings 60 years ago, is surrounded by myths and controversies.

Moreover, while many American leftists targeted in the McCarthy era were not Soviet spies, they were not merely unfairly maligned champions of social justice, but active supporters of one of history's most evil regimes: Stalinist Soviet Russia. The American Communist Party was a tool of the Kremlin and tolerated no dissent or in-

plosion of new immigration, not just from traditional northern European sources, but from southern and eastern Europe, including many, like Catholics and Jews, that nativists like Bellamy considered "undesirables."

Almost from the beginning the Pledge scuffed the consciences of otherwise patriotic Americans. Jehovah's Witnesses, for example, were reluctant to pledge their allegiance to any power other than God. Since 1954, when the phrase "under God" was added to the Pledge in response to the threat of atheistic communism, objections have been raised by Americans who don't believe in the implied Christian god in the Pledge or who have understandable qualms about mixing theology into any state-sponsored public ritual.

In short, the Pledge has been the source of considerable conflict and division. Americans have lost their jobs and been assaulted and children have been expelled from school for responding to their consciences. And even though the Supreme Court ruled clearly in 1943 that no one can be compelled to recite the Pledge, few elements of human culture have more potential to generate coercion and persecution than an unhealthy mix of patriotism and religion.

Some citizens have good reasons to decline the Pledge; an American shouldn't need any reason at all.

In any case, we say the Pledge much too often. In Texas, like New Jersey, public school students pledge their allegiance

dividualism within its ranks.

While conservatives have offered a useful corrective to the simplistic standard view of McCarthyism, some have gone further in a quest to reclaim McCarthy as a good guy. The best-known champion of the "McCarthy was right" countermyth is right-wing provocateur Ann Coulter, whose book "Treason" proclaimed that McCarthy was a true hero in the struggle against communism, that no innocent people were victimized, and that the only unjust persecution was that of McCarthy by his left-wing enemies.

The same themes were echoed last year in "American Betrayal" by Diana West, which caused some ferocious polemics in the conservative media.

Coulter and West have been harshly criticized by many conservatives and anti-communists, who point out that McCarthyism's excesses damaged not only American democracy but also the anticommunist cause. However, the McCarthy rehabilitation project has plenty of admirers on the right — ones inclined to believe that modern-day American liberals, including President Barack Obama, are communists in disguise if not outright traitors. Meanwhile, many on the left, such as Yeshiva University historian Ellen Schrecker, continue to treat McCarthy-era communists as misunderstood idealists. Modern-day perceptions of McCarthyism remain colored by our own ideological polarization.

In some ways, the battle between the American left and McCarthyite anticommunism 60 years ago parallels many of today's political conflicts. Each camp ends up hurting its own cause more than its opponents' by descending into groupthink, demonization of "the enemy" and shrill demagoguery.

Cathy Young is a regular contributor to Reason magazine and the website RealClearPolitics. She wrote this for Newsday.

Pledge of Allegiance a source of divisions

every morning to both the American flag and the Texas flag. They pledge again before football games. My city council and school board open their meetings with the Pledge. So do the members of the governing board of the college where I work and before subcommittee meetings, too. This is a lot of rote, mechanical pledging, and one wonders if anyone's patriotism is actually bolstered by a pledge that is prone toward empty ritual.

Well in all, I suspect our nation would be better off without the Pledge of Allegiance. At best, it inclines toward meaninglessness, and it can quickly turn into a coercive litmus test for patriotism. Before long we're looking around to see who's not wearing a flag pin.

But if you insist, I propose instead a "National Pledge Day." Every two years, the president could lead the nation in a meaningful recitation of the Pledge on national television. Maybe delete the divisive "under God" and substitute "with tolerance." Time it to coincide with the beginnings of ballgames and other public assemblies. Some would pledge at home and, the being America, I predict "Pledge parties" at local bars.

Some good Americans will decline, but many others would welcome a meaningful celebration of national unity and allegiance.

Who knows? I might even join you.

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune, teaches in the English department at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi, Texas.

OPINION

Pistorius, Zuma: Is this the best S. Africa can do?

By MARK GEYSSER

In South Africa today, as the country celebrates the 20th anniversary of its democracy and prepares for elections, two deeply flawed folk heroes—one vernal, the other violent—have commandeered the headlines.

The president, Jacob Zuma, was recently found by the Public Protector, an independent constitutional body, to have misappropriated \$20 million to upgrade his private home. And Oscar Pistorius, a double amputee who awed the world with his speed running on prosthetic legs, is being tried for murder in the killing of his girlfriend.

With Nelson Mandela dead and his African National Congress increasingly troubled, Pistorius and Zuma have, distressingly, become the poster boys for South Africa's 20 Years of Freedom celebrations.

We South Africans love an underdog, perhaps because of our history, and both Zuma and Pistorius have milked that role. From an Afrikaner Calvinist tradition, Pistorius offers a story of triumph over adversity through God-fearing hard work. Then Zuma, from a poor rural Zulu and working-class township background, presents a narrative of the cunning trickster with little formal education who always finds himself on his feet and takes what he needs with a nudge and a wink.

Both men have been breathtaking in their perseverance and achievement. Zuma stopped a bloody civil war in his home province of KwaZulu-Natal. And as an undereducated peasant who has risen to the very top, he stands as a symbol to black South Africans that they can be masters of their own destiny.

Similarly, Pistorius transforms our understanding of what "able-bodied" means,

even in the way he strides up to the dock.

But both men also seem to have fallen victim to the underdog's sense of moral exceptionalism: They are right while everybody else is wrong. In this closed circle, so brutally exposed during the cross-examination of Pistorius in court this month, any criticism just reaffirms to them that they are underdogs and that they thus have to fight harder—and perhaps dirtier—to survive.

Something has happened, though, these last few weeks, first with the release of the Public Protector's report on Zuma, and now with the Pistorius trial. As the public dramas have played out, both men have forfeited their victim status, and we may never be able to understand them as underdogs again.

If everyday chatter and call-ins to the radio talk shows are anything to go by, there is not much sympathy left for Pistorius in South Africa. This is, in part, because he stands accused of trying to justify the killing of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, by abusing a legitimate fear with which all South Africans live: the fear

of criminal violence and home invasion.

Public opinion about Zuma is more difficult to gauge. He was booed at Mandela's memorial service in December, and several senior comrades have left the ANC because of him. There are no published polls measuring his popularity against that of the ANC, but many of the party's leaders admit privately that an increasing number of their constituents will be voting for the party in spite of, rather than because of, its president.

Still, the ANC will trounce the opposition once more in national elections scheduled for May 7 (just two days after the Pistorius trial resumes in Pretoria).

There are many reasons for this loyalty to the ANC, ranging from an atavistic adherence to the liberation movement to the fact that most South Africans' lives have improved since the end of apartheid. Whether at the upper end, through affirmative action tenders, or at the lower end, through state pensions and child grants, millions of South Africans are dependent on the ANC government. Few are willing to bite the hand that feeds them.

There has also not been, until now, a credible black-led opposition. That is changing, and it will be interesting to watch on May 7 how well the demagogic populist Julius Malema's Economic Freedom Fighters fare.

Expelled from the ANC, Malema is a classic underdog in the Zuma vein: Undereducated and weaned in the struggle, he lives by his wits and has appetites that supersede his means. He will draw support away from his former mentor at least in part because some voters need a new underdog to back now that Zuma has shed this skin.

Meanwhile, the Pistorius trial courses through the electoral season like a foul river, carrying the country's legacies of fear and violence on its currents. These legacies include an unspeakably high level of violent crime—and a contempt for the law and a culture of impunity that spoils down from the top, exemplified as much by Zuma's home improvements as by Pistorius' guns.

And yet here she is, firm but empathetic, presiding over the Pistorius trial: Judge Thokozile Masipa. And here, too, is South Africa's Public Protector: Thuli Madonsela, who had the courage to stand up against the president and his bullying henchmen. The fact that these two black women have constitutionally vested power in South Africa today—the one a highly competent judge, the other a fearless anti-corruption crusader—says much about how far the country has come in the two decades since I voted for the first time, for Nelson Mandela.

These are the real poster girls for the South African democracy.

Justice will be done.

Mark Geysser's new book is "Lost and Found in Johannesburg: A Memoir." He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



Feeling no pressure, Assad keeps up domestic attacks

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

There's growing evidence that the Syrian regime has been gassing civilians again, sending helicopters to unload barrel bombs filled with canisters of chlorine on women and children.

Chlorine gas, used to brutal effect in World War I, is toxic to hydrochloric acid in the lungs, which can lead to internal burning and drowning. But the gas was not on the list of chemical weapons banned by a U.S.-Russian accord in 2013.

Clearly, Syrian leader Bashar Assad feels free to thumb his nose at the White House despite the epic humanitarian crisis he's caused for Syria and its neighbors. Just as clearly, the White House lacks a coherent policy to respond.

"Syria is now the biggest humanitarian and peace and security crisis facing the world," said U.S. Secretary of State Ban Ki-moon. Of its prewar population of 21 million, more than 150,000 have been killed, and nearly 3 million have fled to neighboring countries, threatening the stability of Iraq, Lebanon and Jordan. An additional 6 million in Syria are displaced or in dire need of assistance, according to U.N. estimates, including 3.5 million trapped by fierce fighting.

The White House still touts the chemical-weapons accord as a major achievement. Under pressure, Assad has handed over or destroyed U.S. secretaries of state declared sarin gas arsenal to international inspectors. But sarin killed only a few

hundred people, while 40,000 more have died from bombs, mortars and bullets since the chemical weapons deal. The accord did nothing to stop the killing with conventional weapons and appears not even to have stopped the use of gas.

"By any stretch, the scale of war crimes and displacement and regional destabilization is a defining humanitarian emergency of this century," said David Miliband, head of the International Rescue Committee, one of the most active aid agencies helping Syrians in and outside the country. "The use of chemical weapons, the abuse of humanitarian law, the barrel-bombing of his own cities are extraordinary developments. We can't say we don't know what is going on."

His frustration, like Ban's, is palpable because the international community's response doesn't nearly match the scale of the crisis. "There is a numbing of the senses on this, and the abuses are getting worse," he told me. He fears "the episodic response" of the international community "is a recipe for further killing on a large scale."

That's largely because the humanitarian issue is caught in the geopolitics of the Syrian conflict. Two months ago, the U.N.

Security Council passed a unanimous resolution demanding that Syria's warring sides permit civilians access to humanitarian aid. The Russians, who back Assad, ensured the resolution had no teeth—but Western nations threatened to act if Assad failed to comply.

The moment of truth is here. This week, the Security Council is due to discuss compliance with the resolution; a leaked U.N. assessment concludes it's been a dismal failure. The Syrian government is bombing civilian neighborhoods and grain silos, while access to critical medical supplies and vaccines is denied. In besieged towns, people are eating leaves, and a polio epidemic has broken out in rebel-held areas.

"The Security Council must take action to deal with ... flagrant violations," the report says. But we know that Russia will block any move against Assad.

There are plenty of good ideas on how to get more assistance to Syrian civilians. Miliband, a former British foreign minister, suggests several, such as send more aid across the Turkish or Iraqi borders to the needy in rebel-held areas despite Syrian complaints that it violates its sovereignty; and insist on access to areas besieged by the government or—in a few cases—by rebel Islamist militias.

None of that will happen, however, unless Assad and his Russian backers are convinced they have no choice but to agree. That would require decisions President Barack Obama still refuses to make.

This month, when appearing before a Senate committee, Secretary of State John Kerry repeated the administration mantra that the Syrian war could be ended only by a diplomatic solution. "The moment is not ripe," he said, "because we still have to change Assad's calculation." When asked how to do that, he said he'd discuss it only in a classified briefing.

"We talk about that," he added. "Of course, we do kick it around."

What's still being kicked around is whether to aid vetted Syrian rebels with heavy weapons, including anti-aircraft missiles that can shoot down helicopters dropping chlorine gas. This debate has been going on for two years while moderate rebels were squeezed out by Islamist fighters well-armed and well-funded by radical Gulf sheikhs.

Such a move would probably change Assad's calculations, but the White House continues to dither. The CIA is reportedly giving vetted rebels antitank weapons and training a few hundred of them in Jordan, but at this pace, Assad will never feel pressured into a diplomatic solution.

And Assad feels free—despite all the White House posturing on chemical weapons—to keep killing Syrian civilians with guns.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

The White House still touts the chemical weapons accord as a major achievement. ... But sarin killed only a few hundred people, while 40,000 more have died from bombs, mortars and bullets since the chemical weapons deal.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Inmate who fled 6 days before release captured

OR PORTLAND — Police say an inmate who served 272 days then escaped from a north Portland prison with less than a week to go has been recaptured.

Sgt. Pete Simpson said police responding to a tip from a corrections officer who was transporting someone else found Matthew Medlin, 30, late Wednesday night at a Jack in the Box in north Portland.

While he was initially described as “noncompliant with commands to get on the ground,” police said Medlin surrendered after numerous officers showed up, including a K-9 unit.

Simpson said Medlin was being treated for injuries suffered during his escape before being booked into jail. He had been serving time at the Columbia River Correctional Institute for burglary, sex abuse and assault when he took off early Wednesday, escaping over a fence.

Medlin served 272 days, and had six left to serve. His release date was May 6.

Nine mumps cases diagnosed at university

IL CHAMPAIGN — University of Illinois officials say nine students on the Urbana-Champaign campus have been diagnosed with mumps. The cases are part of an outbreak that has already produced more cases this year than the state saw in all of 2013.

Dr. Robert Palinkas director of the campus McKinley Health Center, said the nine cases have all been diagnosed since spring break. A faculty member has what may be a 10th case.

Palinkas said the students were all vaccinated. But he said the vaccine is only 80 to 85 percent effective.

The Illinois Department of Public Health said 65 other cases have been confirmed this year. Most are in Morgan and Sangamon counties in central Illinois.

Last year, the state had a total of 26 mumps cases.

Squirrel goes nuts on teen taking selfie

ME AUBURN — A Maine teenager is flustered but not hurt after a photo with a squirrel went awry.

Brian Genest, 17, of Auburn, said Thursday he saw what appeared to be a friendly squirrel on a hand rail while walking through John Chestnut Park near Tampa, Fla.

Genest took a “selfie” of himself and the squirrel, but the flash and noises from his camera phone scared the animal, which climbed over the teen’s shirt and hung onto his back.

“He was just in that spot where my arm can’t reach him,” Genest said. “I threw myself on the ground and that scared him off.”

Genest’s mother, Paula Wright, snapped photos of the hoopla, which were originally posted to his Instagram feed along with his selfie.

THE CENSUS

\$300K

The list price of a massive, urethane igloo that is a magnet for summer tourists heading up the Parks Highway en route to Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska. The 80-foot high structure was erected more than four decades ago over a shell of plywood and was never completed on a 38-acre site, which is part of the package.



STAN LIM, THE (RIVERSIDE, CALIF.) PRESS-ENTERPRISE/AP

Running for a cause

Jose Zambrano, 43, of Corona, Calif., who is a firefighter in El Segundo, prepares to run in his fire gear during a training run Monday in Riverside. Zambrano has been running events in full firefighting gear in honor of fallen firefighters and will be participating in an upcoming marathon in Orange County.

Genest had approached the squirrel making clicking sounds with his tongue to get closer. His mother said the spectacle Saturday taught him a lesson.

“I think he got a little lesson from the squirrel that he’s not really its buddy,” she said. She said neither her son nor the squirrel was harmed.

Police: Man ‘armed’ with potato arrested

RI PROVIDENCE — Providence police have arrested a man who allegedly wielded a potato disguised as a gun during a robbery attempt last week.

Gary Deming, 34, of Cranston, was arrested on robbery charges. Authorities said he pretended he had a gun when he demanded money from a convenience store and dry cleaner April 21.

The convenience store manager chased him off with a baseball bat. A dry cleaner employee gave him a fake \$20 from a decoy register.

The station reports Deming is also accused of breaking into his

sister’s home on the same day as the suspected potato incidents. She told police he took a purse, a debit card and \$100 in cash.

Court rules some felons can hold public office

NM SANTA FE — The state Supreme Court has ruled that convicted felons in New Mexico can hold public office if they received deferred sentences and charges are dismissed.

The court issued the decision Thursday in answering a state law question from the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver in a New Mexico man’s appeal over a federal charge of being a felon in possession of firearms.

Judges can defer sentencing until an offender completes a period of probation, and charges are dismissed if the individual complies with the probation conditions. The conviction remains in court records, but the justices said a person’s civil rights are restored, including the ability to hold public office.

The court said the Legisla-

ture “established the deferred sentence as a means of judicial clemency.”

Jumping jack passed as official state exercise

MO JEFFERSON CITY — Get your arms and legs limbered up. Missouri lawmakers have OK’d an official state exercise.

The Senate gave final approval Thursday to legislation that would make the jumping jack Missouri’s official exercise.

The House passed the measure earlier this year. So it now needs only the signature of Gov. Jay Nixon to become law.

Why the jumping jack and not the push-up?

Students from at St. Joseph’s Pershing Elementary School lobbied for the jumping jack in honor of Gen. John J. Pershing.

The Missouri-born general led U.S. forces in World War I and is credited with inventing the jumping jack as a drill for cadets when he taught at West Point.

Truancy officer guilty of being the absent one

NJ NEWARK — Federal prosecutors say a New Jersey man has pleaded guilty to defrauding the state’s Board of Education by working a second job during the hours he was supposed to be tracking down truant students.

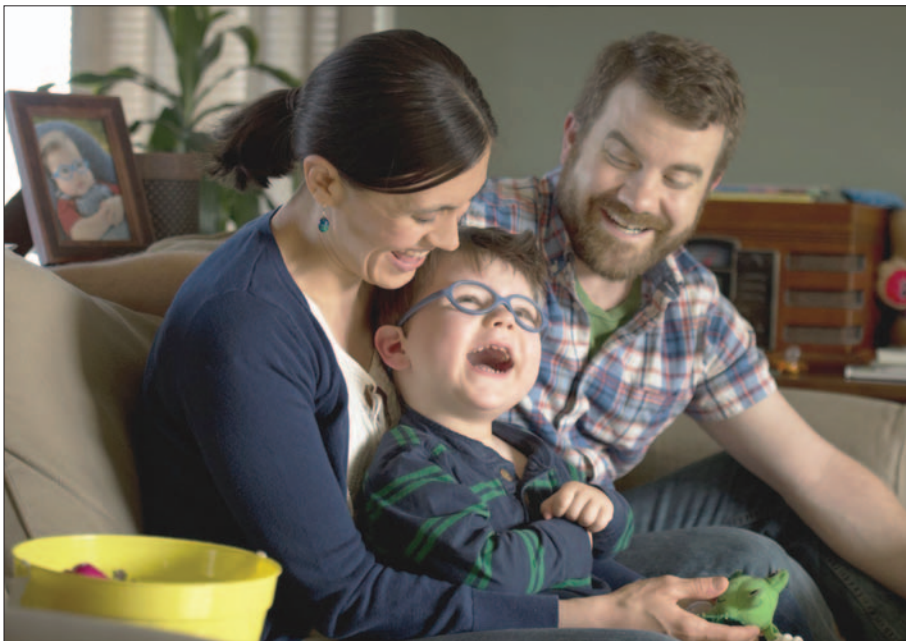
U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman said Scott J. Farley, 45, pleaded guilty on Thursday to an information charging him with embezzling more than \$5,000 from the BOE while working as an attendance liaison officer in Elizabeth.

Prosecutors said that during the course of two school years, the Cranford resident admitted to working for the shipping and receiving department of a Mountainside-based corporation during hours that he was supposed to be conducting home visits over excessive school absences by students.

He has agreed to pay \$22,065 in restitution to the district.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



KETH MYERS/Kansas City Star

Ryan and Kathy Reed enjoy a happy moment with their son, Otis, at the home of Ryan's parents in Baldwin City, Kan. The Reeds are moving to Colorado so Otis can be treated for seizures with a medical form of marijuana.

The pot refugees

Families with sick kids head to Colorado hoping for cure

BY DONALD BRADLEY
The Kansas City Star

Otis Reed will soon move to Colorado so he can get marijuana every day.

Otis is 2. He and children like him have become the new face of America's discussion about marijuana. Forget Bill Maher and Willie Nelson for now—that's old weed thinking.

Now it's about kids who suffer hundreds of seizures every day because of epilepsy and other neurological disorders. A growing number of health professionals, buoyed by new research and positive results, say medical marijuana, specifically an oil extract called Charlotte's Web, can help those children.

The question is, why do these families have to move to Colorado to get it? Even the national Epilepsy Foundation says the treatment should be available everywhere. It's made in Colorado Springs, but if people bring it home to a non-medical marijuana state, such as Kansas or Missouri, they could be arrested.

Margaret Gedde, a Colorado Springs doctor, blames people clinging to a decades-old resistance to marijuana right out of "Reefer Madness." And until change comes, families known as "medical marijuana refugees" are streaming to Colorado.

"As success stories get out and word spreads, they are coming here from everywhere," said Gedde, a pathologist who has encouraged dozens of families to make the

The treatment

The thick, amber-colored oil called Charlotte's Web is made by a dispensary in Colorado Springs, Colo. The process renders the oil high in cannabidiol, or CBD, a chemical in cannabis thought to have medicinal properties, but removes most of the part of pot that gets users high.

The treatment, sometimes administered by a drop under the tongue, is not covered by insurance, but financial help is available. A typical month's supply runs about \$300.

move from as far away as Florida. "We see them every day."

That's what Otis' mom and dad are doing. Otis, who turns 3 in June, can't walk or talk. In February, he broke a leg because constant medication weakened his bones. But he smiles. His life is what he knows.

His parents have tried everything to help him. Various doctors, different hospitals, ketogenic diet, two pages of drugs. Nothing has worked. Then they heard about Charlotte's Web. So the family is leaving their jobs and family in Baldwin City, Kan., for Colorado Springs.

"Anybody in our shoes would do the same thing," Ryan Reed said.

Through the Internet and social media, the refugees find each other. They exchange stories, compare notes and help with one another's kids. A woman who moved last year from Gladstone, Kan.,

with her daughter said she has more than 400 families on a Facebook page.

It could soon be the faces of children such as Otis Reed and June Jessee, a toddler in St. Louis, that legislators will see on large video screens in chambers as laws are challenged in the 29 states that do not allow medical marijuana.

And of course, Charlotte Figi, a little girl with a genetic disorder called Dravet syndrome that causes catastrophic seizures. She was so sick—her heart stopped twice—that her parents signed a "do not resuscitate" order.

Then they tried the marijuana oil and it worked. She is the Charlotte of Charlotte's Web.

"Marijuana can end the suffering of children with seizures," Gedde said by phone from her office. "Who wants to be against that?"

Critics argue that a medical marijuana law is just a steppingstone to statutes allowing recreational use. They say that it would make pot easier for teens to get and that it would lead to harder drugs. They also point to all the approved drugs that are available.

The big roadblock comes from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which continues to say that marijuana "has a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision" and that "no sound scientific studies supported medical use of marijuana."

But the American Medical Association, along with other health organizations, recently called for more research.

Proponents such as the refugee families want people to look at a website called Face of Cannabis, at faceofcannabis.wordpress.com. It shows their children and tells their stories.

Ryan and Kathy Reed think medical marijuana will be legal everywhere in a few years, but they can't wait. Otis needs help now, said Kathy Reed, who works at the University of Kansas.

"It's just unfortunate that we have to pack up and leave our lives to go get medicine that may save my son's life," she said.

Matt Jessee, whose 2-year-old daughter, June, suffers daily seizures from epilepsy, says that his family has no choice but to move to Colorado. "Really, what else can you do when it's your child?" he asks. "If you think it could help, don't you have to go?"

Jessee blames federal drug policy that continues to categorize marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug, which means it has no accepted medical use.

He rejects criticism that asks, why try medical marijuana when we don't know whether it will work? He said his family didn't know whether the other medications would work either, and they didn't. One, he said, had a 3 percent chance of working, and a possible side effect was death.

"We can't wait any longer," he said of the family's move to Denver. "Sure, it's a tough move. All our family is here, and we don't know anybody out there. But every day June has seizures delays her development, so we can't wait any longer."

"This is about hope."

VIDEO GAMES



By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

Horror games are going through somewhat of a renaissance recently, with more and more genre developers taking away the guns and action set pieces of past games and replacing them with scares. Newer hits like "Outlast" have proven that a minimalist approach to horror can be more effective — and marketable — than yet another "Resident Evil" clone.

"Daylight," the first-person survival horror title from Zombie Studios and gaming personality Jessica Chobot, follows this minimalist trend. The game is simple, both in story and gameplay, sometimes to its own detriment. The simple approach begins with the storyline, which is largely a simplistic retreat that uses nearly every overly familiar horror trope available.

You play as Sarah, a young woman who awakens in an abandoned mental hospital with a bad case of amnesia. A disembodied voice tells her to wake up and find the secrets of the hospital. Being the dutiful video game protagonist that she is, Sarah grabs her dying cell phone and takes off on a journey that will uncover secrets not only about the hospital, but herself.

This translates into gameplay that has your protagonist searching through levels for notes, newspaper clippings and memos that also tell the story. In order to progress to the next level, Sarah must collect a cer-

tain amount of these notes, which are randomly distributed in file cabinets, medical boxes, crates and the like. Glow sticks, sprinkled throughout the game, can be used to highlight the containers that can be interacted with, which eases the tedium of searching everything.



This means that the entire game revolves around moving from one end of the level to the other, clicking on every glowing piece of scenery, hoping it contains a note so that you can progress to the next level to

repeat the process. If that sounds a bit dull, that's because it really is.

With this being a horror game, the trek from one locked doorway to the next isn't completely without excitement. As you wander the halls, disconnected phones will ring, boxes will fly off shelves and spooky voices call from the shadows.

The main scares come from ghosts that manifest suddenly, and at random, usually directly behind you. These ghosts can kill and must be driven off using only the light from flares you find throughout the levels.

At least, that's what the game tells you

to do. The enemies pop up quickly and the health they drain seems to be arbitrary. Sometimes you're dead before you can react. Other times the ghost just stops and stares before vanishing. The tactic I found most effective was to simply ignore them. If you keep moving, they do nothing to you. The fright factor is somewhat lessened when simply ignoring the supposed threat is the best approach to staying alive.

The game also does a very poor job of telling the story, or even expressing the simple tasks it wants you to accomplish. For instance, the voice that is directing Sarah's action will tell her to "find the sigil" after collecting the required amount of notes. Astute players will know roughly where this might be found, but what is not explained is that in order to progress, you must then click on a specific, unhighlighted bit of junk found among other floating bits of junk.

The notes that tell the bulk of the story are so boilerplate as to not elicit any sense of emotion. Guards are hearing noises, doctors are conducting illicit experiments, a bad thing happened on hospital grounds long ago, etc. A very basic story can still be told well, but when it's not, as is the case with "Daylight," it becomes a weight that drags the entire experience down. The double team of amnesia and poorly explained story elements sink what could have been an interesting, if somewhat predictable, storyline.

The visuals on a PC are solid enough,

Overall grade: **D+**

though I can't say there is anything breathtaking on display here. It is the first game to use the new game engine that we're going to see in the industry for years to come, so if you're interested in checking out the new tech, this might be worth a look.

The last thing to mention is that the game is extremely short. I took my time trying to track down every note in the game, and even with my meanderings, I finished the game in little more than two hours. That might be a bit short for some, especially at the \$14.99 price point. Zombie Studios seems to know this, so PlayStation 4 users will be able to get a discount on it for the next two weeks.

"Daylight" has the components of a decent game. A new writer tackling an underutilized bend to the horror game genre and a new game engine were enough to get my attention back in January. Sadly, the game feels more like a collection of neat ideas left largely unfulfilled.

Bottom line: If you're a hard-core horror fan searching for something new to play, "Daylight" might give you some enjoyment for a couple of hours. Other gamers can probably skip this one.

Rating: D+

Platforms: PC and PlayStation 4

Online: playdaylight.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

LIFESTYLE

Modern-day geisha

Sex is not in the job description of Japanese women who train in the ancient art of female companionship

By PATRICIA SHERIDAN
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Like ghosts from another time, the real Japanese geisha seem to float silently along the streets at twilight, making their way to tea houses and restaurants where they will entertain elite, powerful men.

Trained to be exquisite hostesses, they are accomplished musicians, singers, dancers and, most importantly, conversationalists. To have a geisha in your

company, to be in the presence of a beautiful, articulate, talented companion for the evening, is considered a status symbol. Their clients used to be samurai and shogun. Now it's politicians, actors and corporate CEOs who hire the geisha by the hour for private dinners at *ryotei* (traditional Japanese restaurants) and *ochaya* (tea houses).

They are not courtesans or prostitutes. Before World War II, a geisha's virginity was auctioned to the highest bidder, but sex is no

longer part of the transaction. To be a geisha is to be part of a community, a vocation. They are career women. They are performance artists.

An endangered species, the numbers of real geisha in Japan are dwindling. A reported 80,000 throughout Japan in the early 20th century, they now number only a few thousand. In Kyoto, there are about 150 *geiko* — geisha in the local dialect — and *maiko*, geisha in training, in Kyoto, according to Anne Alene, an in-country guide for a recent trip to Japan arranged by the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh Travel Program.

The group toured the Gion district, one of several historically preserved neighborhoods in Kyoto and the place where the 2005 movie "Memoirs of a Geisha" was filmed. It was based on the novel of the same name by Arthur Golden.

In Kyoto, authentic geisha are not nearly as prevalent as faux geisha — young women who dress in traditional Japanese kimono complete with *obi*, white *tabi* socks and wooden *geta* sandals. While they enjoy being stopped by tourists to have pictures taken, wearing traditional ensembles also appeals to the Japanese reverence for ritual and tradition.

"For many Japanese girls, it's fun to dress up in something they would never ordinarily get to wear," said Amy Boots, executive director of the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania.

"I think it might be like doing a Renaissance or Old West-style photo shoot for us."

Visitors also can give it a try. In Kyoto, there are several places that rent a kimono ensemble or the men's version, a black kimono with *montsuki haori*, the short coat over top.

"Kimonos have many layers and are difficult to put on without a helper," said Katsuko Shellhammer, education outreach coordinator for the Japan-America Society of Pennsylvania. "They are also very expensive, and seasonal patterns are important. It can be like wearing a piece of art."

Department stores in both Tokyo and Kyoto have sections dedicated to kimono wear; you can buy off the rack or have a custom-made kimono and *obi* from the bolts of material offered. A less expensive option is a used kimono, and there are many stores that deal strictly in pre-owned. Kimonos are often passed down



A "maiko," or geisha in training, above, may be as young as 15 and must live in the geisha house during training, which lasts between three and five years.



A poster showing a geisha is displayed at the Geisha show, which takes place in Kyoto, Japan, twice a year.

and kimonos and providing room and board. *Maiko*, pronounced MY-ko, are tested before they can advance. At the *erikae* ceremony, they don the white collar of geisha.

Twice a year, in spring and fall, the public is treated to a display of geisha talents during the Miyako Odori at the theater in the Gion district. The 142nd annual Miyako Odori was held in April during the Carnegie Museums group's visit. The travelers enjoyed a glimpse into this exclusive world, including a very brief tea ceremony with a complicated etiquette that must become second nature to real geisha.

As the living embodiment of history and fantasy, geisha are not allowed to marry — ever. If they do, they must leave.

"Geisha and *maiko* are very special to the Japanese people," Boots said. They are part of a separate world from ordinary Japanese life."



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA SHERIDAN/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Japan's real geisha can be identified by their white makeup and shyness around the camera. However, there is nothing to be ashamed of. To the contrary, today's geisha are not courtesans or prostitutes, they are singers, dancers and trained conversationalists who entertain elite and powerful men.



One of the geisha-like wait staff at Nakamura, a traditional Japanese restaurant, greets customers.

MOVIES



The war flicks ARE COMING

WWII dropping
into movie theaters
at a fast pace for the
rest of the year

By JOHN ANDERSON
Newsday

This summer — July 28, to be precise — will mark the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, aka The Great War, the War to End All Wars and the European War (in America, at least, which didn't enter until three years later). It was a conflict that changed warfare technologically, culturally and spiritually. It was one of the more costly conflagrations in the history of humanity.

So what's up at the movies? World War II.

Centennial or no centennial, it's become clear this year that the second world war remains first in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of filmmakers everywhere. "The Monuments Men," directed by

George Clooney, told the story of art investigators rescuing world masterpieces from the clutches of Nazis. "Generation War," a soapy import derived from a popular German miniseries, told of five friends going their separate ways at the outbreak of the war.

This year's Oscar-winning short film, "The Lady in Number 6: Music Saved My Life," was about 109-year-old pianist and Auschwitz survivor Alice Herz-Sommer; and "Stalingrad," about World War II's most strategically important battle (and history's costliest), was a high-end Russian production whose message was neatly summarized by Philadelphia Inquirer critic Steven Rea: "War is hell. But hell, it makes for good cinema."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

MOVIES



Photos courtesy of Liberty Studios Inc.

Inspired by a true story, the recently released *“Walking with the Enemy”* is one of many WWII-inspired movies set to hit theaters this year.

FROM PAGE 18

So it has ever been — and so shall it continue. On Nov. 14, moviegoers will see the release of *“Fury,”* starring Brad Pitt as a battle-hardened tank commander in the last months of World War II, attempting to “strike at the heart of Nazi Germany.” Angelina Jolie directs *“Unbroken”* (Dec. 25), based on the biography by Laura Hillenbrand (*“Seabiscuit”*), about Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner who was taken prisoner by the Japanese during World War II. Mexican director Alejandro Monteverde’s *“Little Boy”* is a comedy coming June 6 (D-Day) about a boy trying to bring his father back from World War II. Still awaiting release dates are *“Suite Francais,”* starring Michelle Williams and Margot Robbie, about a French villager who falls for a German soldier; and Jim Sheridan’s *“Playing with the Enemy,”* about teaching German prisoners of war to play baseball at a POW camp in Louisiana.

Hungarian heroics

“Walking with the Enemy,” about Hungarian heroics in the face of Germany’s attempted eradication of its Jewish population and focusing on a little-known aspect of Holocaust history, was released last week.

“When we were doing our interviews, it was mostly older people you could learn things from,” said director Mark Schmidt, whose *“Walking with the Enemy”* is based on real-life Pinchas Rosenbaum, who rescued his fellow Jews from enemies both foreign and domestic. “They were behind the Iron Curtain so long, and Hungary didn’t teach the true history of what happened there.”

Getting at the real history has much to do with the evolution of World War II as a movie subject, according to Morris Dickstein,

film critic, author and distinguished professor of English and theater at the Graduate Center of City University in New York. It has gone through several phases, he said, the biggest being the shift from combat drama to Holocaust story, “a fascination that has not yet ended.”

“It was at first provoked by the amnesia of the first 25 years, when neither the survivors nor the work at large were willing to really look at this horror in the eye,” Dickstein said. “Then, both the survivors and the perpetrators began dying off, which led to a raft of survivor testimony. The unexpected commercial success of *“Schindler’s List”* only fueled the flames, besides providing money for an immense archive of witness testimony.”

Good guys vs. fascists

World War II was, admittedly, a far more costly endeavor than World War I (16 million died in the first war, about 60 million in the second, a figure that includes death due to famine, disease and extermination). But understanding World War I also requires something like the schematic to a TV set in order to get the players, the grievances and the interconnecting alliances straight in one’s head. By comparison, the agenda for World War II is much simpler — good guys against fascists.

“No other war offers such clean-cut contrasts,” Dickstein said. “The Good War and the Greatest Generation make for strong storylines. New frontiers in the portrayal of violence make for far greater realism, beginning with *“Saving Private Ryan.”* The slow-motion trench warfare of World War I lacks both the drama and the melodrama of World War II, he said. World War I “is suitable mainly for anti-war stories like *“All Quiet on the Western Front”* and *“Paths of Glory.”*”



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Directed by Angelina Jolie, left, *“Unbroken”* follows the life of Olympian and war hero Louis Zamperini, who survived in a raft for 47 days after a near fatal plane crash during World War II.



Courtesy of Metanoia Films

A young American boy struggles to achieve the impossible — bring his father back from war — in the dramedy *“Little Boy.”*

And new facets of World War II keep presenting themselves, he said, as in *“Monuments Men,”* which echoed the headlines about the recovery of art years after it was stolen by the Nazis.

“Then, there is the fact that the Nazis are ideal villains,” Dickstein added. “It blows the mind that the Nazis were not only the greatest killers in history but the greatest liars and thieves.”

WWII genre hard to define

There have not been countless movies made about World War II — it just seems that way, especially if you include all the subgenres: the Holocaust film, the POW camp film (*“The Bridge on the River Kwai,”* *“The Great Escape”*), the prequels, sequels and even a Nazi propaganda masterpiece like *“Triumph of the Will.”* The five choices below are about men at war. But as good as they may be, they also point up that it’s a far-flung genre.

**“The Story of GI Joe” 1945**

This moving drama starring Robert Mitchum and Burgess Meredith is more concerned with the effects of battle on the men waging it than on the battle itself.

**“Army of Shadows” 1969**

Jean-Pierre Melville’s fatalistic tour de force about the French Resistance went unleased in the United States for 40 years after its opening in France.

**“The Big Red One” 1980**

The wartime experiences of director Sam Fuller, who was awarded a Silver Star, Bronze Star and Purple Heart, are the backdrop for this master piece starring Lee Marvin.

**“Das Boot” 1981**

This U-boat thriller inflicts on its audiences a palpable sense of suspense, terror and breathless claustrophobia as Jürgen Prochnow, as the ship’s captain, pushes his craft and his crew to nautical depths and dramatic heights.

**“Saving Private Ryan” 1998**

The opening of Steven Spielberg’s epic — the literally blood-and-guts invasion of Normandy — is hard to beat in terms of immediacy and horror.

SOURCE: Newday

HEALTH & FITNESS

Heart attacks can happen at any age

Cardiovascular disease in young adults on the rise; doctors look to genetics, obesity, stress

By ANDREA K. WALKER
The Baltimore Sun

Carrie O'Connor thought she was a fairly healthy 35-year-old who went on daily jogs and ate well. Then, more than a year ago, she suffered back-to-back heart attacks.

The first hit while she was treating herself to baubles at Smyth Jewelers in Timonium, Md. The project manager at T. Rowe Price suddenly felt nauseated and severe pain consumed her stomach. Pain shot up her arm and her jaw ached. All were common symptoms of a heart attack, the paramedics later told her.

The second happened later that day when doctors tried to insert a stent to open a blocked left artery they believed had caused the first attack. During the procedure, two of her other arteries began to spasm and she had a massive heart attack.

Heart disease is often seen as an older person's affliction. Nationwide, the average age at a first heart attack is 64 for men and 72 for women, according to the American Heart Association. About 10 years ago, the average ages were 65.8 for men and 70.4 for women.

But heart attacks also can occur in younger patients like O'Connor who are seemingly healthy, caught off guard by the life-changing illness. They find themselves dealing with problems more typical of people their parents' age, taking loads of pills and limiting strenuous activity to protect their weakened hearts.

"It was not something I expected at all," O'Connor said. "We don't have family history. I don't have any typical risk factors. I'm not overweight. I don't smoke. I eat fine."

At Anne Arundel Medical Center, where O'Connor received cardiac rehabilitation, the hospital saw such a surge in young patients that it started a support group to help them cope. In 2009, the average age of heart attack



KENNETH K. LAM, THE BALTIMORE SUN/MCT

Ana Duhon, center, and Carrie O'Connor, right, both had heart attacks in their 30s and were treated at Anne Arundel Medical Center, where they met. They are founding members of the medical center's Young Adult Cardiac Support Group. Here, Duhon and O'Connor are pictured with Dianne Walters, left, cardiac rehab nurse and facilitator of the support group.

patients at the hospital was 70 years. In 2012, it was 60.

"In addition to the bread-and-butter standard cases, we are seeing it in younger folks and it is not completely clear why that is," said Scott Katzen, a general and interventional cardiologist with Cardiology Associates who has privileges at Anne Arundel Medical Center.

In recent years, some high-profile deaths have brought further attention to the issue. James Gandolfini, who starred in the popular "The Sopranos" television series, died at age 51 from a massive heart attack. Actor Michael Clarke Duncan died at age 54 after suffering a heart attack.

Doctors believe some of the at-

tacks are brought on by genetic causes, but doctors also point to the nation's obesity problem as a factor. Stress also could play a role, although further study needs to be done, some doctors said.

Doctors have started to pay better attention to possible symptoms in younger patients and not discount signs because of the person's age, said Jeffrey L. Quartner, chief of cardiology at MedStar Union Memorial Hospital and a board member of the American Heart Association Maryland.

"We have changed our sensitivity to realize young people have heart attacks as well," Quartner said.

Ana Pendleton Duhon, a 37-

year-old teacher, was riding in the car with her mother in June 2012. That is the last thing she remembers from that day.

Her mother would later tell her she slumped over in mid-conversation. Paramedics shocked Duhon's heart three times to revive her. Doctors would determine later she went into cardiac arrest.

At the hospital, they reduced her body temperature to near freezing, a procedure sometimes used on heart-attack patients to induce a coma and calm the body to help with healing.

Duhon recovered, but doctors aren't 100 percent sure what caused the attack, and the incident has changed her life forever.

Her heart operates at only 30 percent of its function and she takes numerous medications. Doctors implanted a defibrillator on her heart so if she suffers another attack it will automatically shock the organ.

The biggest change has been the emotional effect. Once a personal trainer in tip-top health, Duhon now sometimes worries whether her heart will fail again.

She and O'Connor were the first members of the support group started at Anne Arundel Medical Center to help young people cope after a heart attack.

"We needed a community to talk about this," Duhon said. "We're young women who didn't expect any of this to happen."

Dianne Walters, a nurse in the cardiac rehab unit at Anne Arundel Medical Center who helps run the support group, said younger patients might go into depression and start to question their mortality. Talking to people their age helps them accept their situation, she said. They can also gain tips from one another's experiences.

John Weitzel, a 48-year-old contractor from Crownsville, Md., felt symptoms for almost two days before having a heart attack in 2013. He felt numbness in his arms and jaw, a tightness in his chest and felt as if he had bad indigestion. His body was achy all over. He visited an urgent-care center and was sent home.

Weitzel was walking to the bathroom when he fell in the hallway. His wife heard his body crash and called an ambulance.

Weitzel was overweight and didn't eat well before suffering his heart attack. He has since lost 30 pounds and is trying to live better.

He said the support group has helped.

"It was a wake-up call," he said. "It's hard to realize you're young and have some serious heart problems."

Watching your sugar intake? Raise a glass to dry wine

By CHRISTINE LEHMANN
Special To The Washington Post

Wine lovers watching their sugar intake don't have to give up wine completely. Instead, they can choose wines that are low in sugar and drink them in moderation.

The calories in a 5-ounce glass of wine — considered a standard serving by the government's Dietary Guidelines — can hover around 200 in a sweet wine. Most of it comes from the alcohol. So if you absolutely must have a glass with dinner, you can cut the calories by sticking with wines that are less sweet. Be aware that the serving size depends on who is pouring — the range is between 4 and 6 ounces in a standard wine glass.

Sugar is a major component of the grapes used to make wine. Ripening grapes have two fermentable sugars: fructose and glucose, in about equal amounts. During fermentation, the yeast converts these sugars to alcohol and carbon dioxide. As the alcohol level rises, the level of sugar drops.

Whether a wine is considered dry, semisweet or sweet is determined by the amount of sugar it contains. Most red and many white wines and sparkling wines are dry, while some white and most rosé wines are semisweet. Dessert, late-harvest, fortified wines and a few sparkling wines are considered sweet. The winemaker controls the amount of sugar in a wine in various ways, including stopping the fermentation process prematurely so that the yeast con-

verts less sugar into alcohol. The amount of "residual sugar" left in wines varies depending on the desired sweetness.

Dry wines have the least residual sugar, taste more acidic and astringent than sweeter wines and leave a dry sensation in the mouth, according to Andrew Waterhouse, a wine chemist at the University of California at Davis. Some extra-dry wines such as an Italian pinot grigio and cabernet sauvignon are often called "bone-dry." The residual sugar is less than 1 gram and less than three calories in a 5-ounce serving of an Italian pinot grigio.

Other popular dry wines such as Kendall Jackson's Vintner Reserve chardonnay have a slightly higher amount of residual

sugar to mask the astringency and sourness, Waterhouse said. A 5-ounce serving has about 1 gram of sugar and about five calories from sugar compared with about 140 calories from alcohol.

To keep the calorie count low from both sugar and alcohol in a glass of wine, stick with dry wines. Here are some of my favorites:

- White: sauvignon blanc, Italian pinot grigio, viognier, and chardonnay
- Red: cabernet sauvignon, cabernet franc, pinot noir and syrah
- French rosé from Provence or Languedoc
- Brut sparkling wine

BUSINESS/WEATHER

What things does Wal-Mart not sell?

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The news that Wal-Mart is getting into the car insurance business begs the question: Is there anything that the world's largest retailer doesn't hawk?

Surprisingly, the answer is plenty.

You can find food, meds and toys for your dog, Rover, at Wal-Mart, but chances are you didn't buy your pet there. By the same token, you can pick up a wedding veil at Wal-Mart, but not a traditional, white, wedding gown. And there are plenty of battery-powered cars for kids at Wal-Mart, but no life-size versions for grown-ups.

All that could all change someday.

Wal-Mart says that almost anything is possible as it pushes to cement its reputation as a place where shoppers can stop in for grocery staples like milk and eggs and also cross off a number



STEVEN SENNE/AP

A woman pushes a shopping cart away from the entrance of a Wal-Mart store in North Kingston, R.I., in 2012.

of other things on their "To-Do" list. In keeping with the vision of founder Sam Walton, Wal-Mart continues to look to expand its offerings of products and services at lower prices than its competitors.

Analysts say the pressure to expand its offerings is only intensifying as Wal-Mart continues

to face competition from online rival Amazon.com, which is expanding into new products and services.

"We are all about one-stop shopping," says Deisha Barnett, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman.

In auto insurance, Wal-Mart hooked up with a new site called

AutoInsurance.com that lets shoppers quickly find and buy insurance policies online to cut down costs. That move comes just a few weeks after Wal-Mart launched a money transfer service.

What other services could be on the horizon for the retail behemoth? Brian Sozzi, an equities strategist who follows Wal-Mart, believes the retailer will continue to focus on adding services.

"Anything is fair game," said Wal-Mart's Barnett.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 5)	\$1.4215
Dollar buys (May 5)	€0.7035
British pound (May 5)	\$1.73
Japanese yen (May 5)	100.00
South Korean won (May 6)	1,005.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6890/0.5939
Canada (dollar)	1.0985
China (Yuan)	6.2595
Denmark (Krone)	5.4686
Egypt (Pound)	7.0077
Euro	\$1.3822/7.235
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.7550
Hungary (Forint)	222.14
Israel (Shekel)	3.4590
Japan (Yen)	102.78
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2809
Norway (Krone)	5.9571
Philippines (Peso)	44.52
Poland (Zloty)	3.34
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2556
South Korea (Won)	1,031.14
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8834
Thailand (Baht)	32.40
Turkey (New Lira)	2.1005

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., currencies of the United Kingdom, check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	3.41

MARKET WATCH

May 1, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	-21.97
	16,558.87
Nasdaq composite	12.89
	4,127.45
Standard & Poor's 500	-0.27
	1,883.68
Russell 2000	-0.89
	1,125.97

WEATHER OUTLOOK

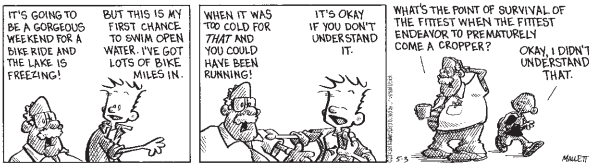
SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



Frazz



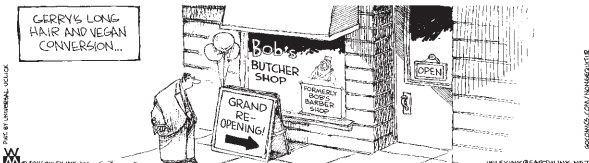
Dilbert



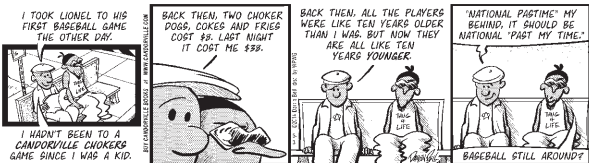
Pearls Before Swine



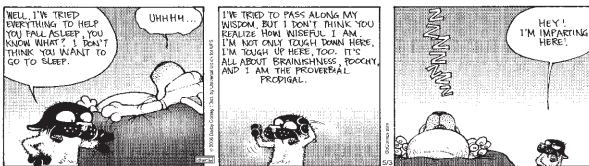
Non Sequitur



Candorville



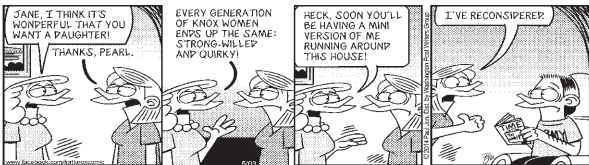
Get Fuzzy



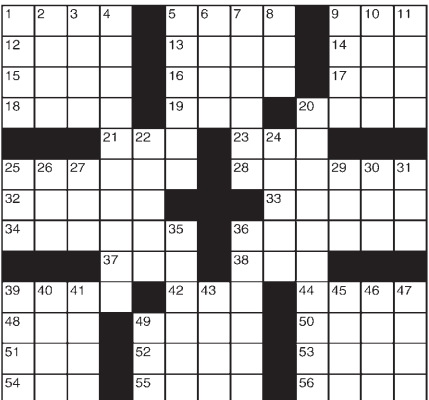
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 See 48-Across
- 5 Doorframe piece
- 9 Satchel
- 12 Latin list-ender
- 13 Water, in Oaxaca
- 14 Regret
- 15 Color quality
- 16 Dines
- 17 Dined
- 19 Vim and vigor
- 20 The gamut
- 21 Honest politician?
- 23 Immigrant's study (Abbr.)
- 25 Fraternal Holly-wood surname
- 28 Oedipus, for one
- 32 Wear away
- 33 Banish
- 34 — del Fuego
- 36 Tried for a homer
- 37 Doctrine
- 38 Blunder
- 39 Coffee
- 42 Spell-down
- 44 Cheese choice
- 48 With 1-Across, "Open sesame" speaker
- 49 "— Fiction"
- 50 Mexican peninsula
- 51 Triumphed
- 52 Capri, e.g.
- 53 Actress — Rachel Wood

DOWN

- 4 Witness
- 5 Chaz's mom
- 6 Composer Jerome
- 7 Fish eggs
- 8 Morsel
- 9 Hearty quaff
- 10 Flanders of "The Simpsons"
- 11 Surprise attack
- 12 Paging device
- 13 Big fish story?
- 14 Lotion additive
- 15 Tarzan's transport
- 16 Fashion magazine
- 17 Late-night nickname
- 18 Open somewhat
- 19 "Yikes!"
- 20 Man with all the answers?
- 21 Oktoberfest supply
- 22 Remove wool
- 23 Drench
- 24 "Entourage" role
- 25 Fish eggs
- 26 Morsel
- 27 Hearty quaff
- 28 Flanders of "The Simpsons"
- 29 Surprise attack
- 30 Paging device
- 31 Big fish story?
- 32 Lotion additive
- 33 Tarzan's transport
- 34 Fashion magazine
- 35 Late-night nickname
- 36 Open somewhat
- 37 "Yikes!"
- 38 Man with all the answers?
- 39 Oktoberfest supply

Answer to Previous Puzzle



5-3

CRYPTOQUIP

BGPQ X CXTF SXLPQU EFLM
FCSXLUR BFRMAC UA GFR
EXEJ ADDRSLFYQ, FR GP

YFNFYQ DPXUGPLTJ XMNFWP?
Yesterday's Cryptquip: GETTING READY TO GO AND CAPTURE THE HUGE SEA MONSTER, MY PARTNER CRIED, "TIME TO GET KRAKEN!"
Today's Cryptquip Clue: F equals I

KNOWLEDGE

IS POWER.

STRIPES  CENTRAL

THE RUPTURED DUCK

A blog for veterans and those who will be

ARCHIVE PHOTO
OF THE DAY

GOOD GAME

PACIFIC STORM
TRACKER

PACIFIC
SPORTSBLOG

EUROPE
SPORTSBLOG

EUROPE TRAVELER

SPOUSE CALLS

EDITOR'S NOTES

OMBUDSMAN

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SCOREBOARD

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up-to-date TV schedules.
myafn.net

Pro soccer

MLS											
EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF		W	L	Pts	GF	
Columbus	3	1	3	12	10	Seattle	5	2	16	18	
Portland KC	3	1	3	12	10	FC Dallas	4	2	16	18	
D.C.	3	2	2	11	9	Real Salt Lake	3	5	14	13	
New England	3	3	2	11	7	Colorado	3	4	13	11	
New York	2	2	5	11	13	Vancouver	2	2	10	12	
Toronto FC	3	3	0	9	6	LA Galaxy	2	3	9	11	
Houston	2	4	2	8	8	San Jose	1	2	6	7	
Philadelphia	3	3	5	8	11	Chivas USA	1	3	6	8	
Montreal	1	4	3	6	7						
Chicago	0	1	6	6	10						
WESTERN CONFERENCE											
	W	L	T	Pts	GF		W	L	Pts	GF	
Seattle	5	2	1	16	18	12					
FC Dallas	5	2	1	16	18	14					
Real Salt Lake	3	0	5	14	13	8					
Colorado	3	2	2	11	9	9					
Vancouver	2	2	4	10	12	10					
LA Galaxy	2	3	2	8	7	7					
San Jose	1	2	3	6	6	7					
Chivas USA	1	4	3	6	8	14					

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

point for tie.

Saturday's games

New England at Toronto FC
San Jose at Vancouver
Real Salt Lake at Chicago
Los Angeles at Colorado
Philadelphia at Seattle FC
Houston at Chivas USA
D.C. United at Portland

Sunday's games

New York at FC Dallas

Columbus at Sporting Kansas City
Wednesday, May 7
 Columbus at Houston
 FC Dallas at Seattle FC
 Colorado at San Jose
Saturday, May 10
 D.C. United at Philadelphia
 Sporting Kansas City at Montreal
 Chicago at New York
 Vancouver at Columbus

NWSL						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	4	0	1	12	10	1
Portland	2	0	1	7	5	2
Washington	2	2	0	6	6	7
FC Kansas City	1	2	1	4	4	7
Western NY	1	1	0	3	3	2
Chicago	1	2	0	3	1	2
Houston	1	2	0	3	3	5
Boston	1	2	0	3	5	8

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Note: Three points for victory; one point for tie.

Wednesday's games
 Seattle FC 2, Sky Blue FC 0

FC Kansas City 1, Chicago 0

Saturday's games

Seattle FC at Washington

Portland at Western New York
Boston at Sky Blue FC
FC Kansas City at Houston
Wednesday, June 7

Wednesday, May 7
Chicago at Sky Blue FC
FC Kansas City at Western New York

Saturday, May 10

Saturday's games									
Seattle FC, Sky Blue FC	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
LA Galaxy, Western NY	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
San Jose, Portland	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Portland, FC Kansas City	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago, San Jose	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Houston, Seattle FC	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
San Jose, Portland	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Portland, FC Kansas City	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago, San Jose	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Houston, Seattle FC	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		

Boxing

Saturday's games									
Seattle FC, Sky Blue FC	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
LA Galaxy, Western NY	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
San Jose, Portland	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Portland, FC Kansas City	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago, San Jose	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Houston, Seattle FC	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
San Jose, Portland	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Portland, FC Kansas City	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago, San Jose	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		
Houston, Seattle FC	7:00	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA		

At Cebu City, Philippines, Johnre
Casimero vs. Mauricio Fuentes, 12, fo

Casimero's IBF junior flyweight title; Hamaonito Dela Torre vs. Gadwin Tubigon 12, super featherweights.

At the MGM Grand Garden Arena, Las Vegas, Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Marco Maidana, 12, for Mayweather's WBO

WBA Super World welterweight title:
Amir Khan vs. Luis Collazo, 12, welter
weights; Adrian Broner vs. Carlos Mol

Saturday's games

AUTO RACING

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Aaron's 499 at Talladega, Ala.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday, Central European Time.

Track: Talladega Superspeedway (oval, 2.66 miles).

Race distance: 500.08 miles, 188 laps.

Last year: David Ragan won the rain-delayed race, hooking up with Front Row teammate David Gilliland in a two-lap overtime sprint.

Last week: Joey Logano won at Richmond to tie Kevin Harvick for the series victory lead with two.

Fast fact: Jamie McMurray won the October race at the track.

Next race: 5-Hour Energy 400, May 10, Kansas Speedway, Kansas City, Mo.

Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

1. Jeff Gordon	341
2. Matt Kenseth	336
3. Carl Edwards	313
4. Kyle Busch	310
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	309
6. Joey Logano	292
7. Brad Keselowski	287
8. Jimmie Johnson	282
9. Ryan Newman	272
10. Brian Vickers	256
11. Greg Biffle	256
12. Austin Dillon	252
13. Kyle Larson	251
14. Denny Hamlin	245
15. Tony Stewart	243
16. Marcos Ambrose	242
17. AJ Allmendinger	240
18. Paul Menard	226
19. Jamie McMurray	226
20. Kevin Harvick	220

Driver to watch

Season points leader Jeff Gordon leads active drivers with six victories at the track, but you have to consider **Dale Earnhardt Jr.**, a favorite any time he's in the Talladega field. Earnhardt has led at least one lap in 25 of his 28 Talladega starts. He's won five times at the track, including four consecutive victories from 2001 to 2003, and has finished second four times. And, of course, his restrictor-plate record is solid: Earnhardt has a total of eight restrictor-plate victories, including this year's season-opening Daytona 500.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Aaron's 312 at Talladega, Ala.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9 p.m. Saturday, CET.

Track: Talladega Superspeedway (oval, 2.66 miles).

Race distance: 311.22 miles, 117 laps.

Last year: Regan Smith won the race shortened 10 laps to beat darkness after a long rain delay.

Last week: Kevin Harvick raced to his record-extending seventh Richmond series victory, holding off JR Motorsports teammate Chase Elliott.

Next race: Iowa 250, May 18, Iowa Speedway, Newton, Iowa.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Spanish Grand Prix, May 11, Circuit de Catalunya, Barcelona, Spain.

Last race: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Chinese Grand Prix on April 20 for his third straight victory.

Teammate Nico Rosberg was second.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: NHRA Summer Nationals, May 16-18, Atlanta Dragway, Commerce, Ga.

Last week: Erica Enders-Stevens raced to her second Pro Stock victory of the season, beating Allen Johnson in the Spring Nationals in Baytown, Texas. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel, and Robert Hight topped the Funny Car field.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER SERIES

ARCA RACING SERIES
International Motorsports Hall of Fame 200, Saturday, Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, Ala.
Online: arcaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS
Sprint Car: Friday, Eldora Speedway, Rossburg, Ohio;
Late Model: Friday, Fayetteville Motor Speedway, Fayetteville, N.C.; Saturday, Lavonia Speedway, Lavonia, Ga.
Online: worldofoutlaws.com

— **Series capsules**
by The Associated Press



MICHAEL CONROW/AP

Kurt Busch adjusts the mirror of his car during a break in practice at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway on Tuesday. Busch will try to be the first driver in a decade to compete in IndyCar's Indianapolis 500 and Sprint Cup's Coca-Cola 600 on the same day.

Double vision

Kurt Busch getting comfortable with IndyCar testing

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Kurt Busch is starting to feel comfortable in his new IndyCar.

He knows all the buttons in the cockpit, he knows how the wind feels as he speeds around Indianapolis Motor Speedway and now he knows what it feels like to top 220 mph, too.

Busch had a solid showing in testing at the Brickyard's historic 2.5-mile oval on Tuesday. The 2004 Sprint Cup champion is attempting to become the fourth driver to complete in the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day (joining John Andretti, Robby Gordon and Tony Stewart). Both races are scheduled for May 25.

There's a lot more work to go between now and then.

"Michael (Andretti) said last year the pole speed was 227 or 228 and he expects it to go up a couple of miles per hour this year, so he's saying it's going to be about 230," Busch said one day after unveiling his No. 26 Honda at the Andretti team's Indianapolis shop. "Right now, we're keeping it at a nice, gradual pace of comfort."

The plan is to ramp things up fast. Busch said he has been training hard since early February.

The regiment calls for him to run 1½ miles, and then do an hour of cardio work before running another 1½ miles home. In addition, he's sprinkled in some martial arts and the 35-year-old can already see a difference in the way he feels at the end of those grueling Cup races.

Completing the 1,100-mile marathon will require more than just training.

Busch's May schedule includes at least 10 trips between Indy and Charlotte, so he can do his full-time job in the No. 41 Chevrolet for Stewart-Haas Racing. Charlotte Motor Speedway also has granted permission for Busch to land a helicopter on the frontstretch of the track to help speed up the commute between races.



“Right now, we're keeping it at a nice, gradual pace of comfort.”

Kurt Busch
2004 Sprint Cup champion, who plans to drive in the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on May 25.

to complete — or win — both of the Memorial Day races.

"It was nice to settle in and go through the gears," said Busch, who already has one Cup win this season. "I'm confident with the car."

Busch plans to return to the track for testing May 5 when at least four other drivers are scheduled to take their rookie tests.

Busch cleared another hurdle Tuesday by officially passing the final two phases of Indy's rookie orientation program.

Busch and 1997 world champion Jacques Villeneuve were the only two drivers on the track, and it didn't take either one very long to complete their rookie orientation, which is based on the number of laps run at a fast enough speed. Track officials gave them a pass on completing the first phase because of their vast racing experience.

"It was a good day just to settle in with the team," Busch said. "It felt good to get the feedback from the car and to listen to the team."

The only question now is whether Busch will be fast enough to contend for the pole on qualifying weekend and whether he'll be able

Dec. 2 — Last day for teams to offer 2015 contracts to unsigned players.

HBP—by Watson (Schoop), by Cumpston (Schoop), by Meek (Barmes), PB—C.Stewart. T—3:57. A—28,290 (45,971).

Pimentel pitched to 1 batter in the 10th.
HBP—by Watson (Schoop), by Cumpston (Schoop), by Meek (Barmes). PB—C. Stewart. T—3-57. A—28-290 (45,971).

Burton 1/2 0 0 0 0 1
P.Rodriguez pitched to 2 batters in the 8th. WP—Kr.Johnson. PB—Butera. T—5-11. A—24,053 (39,021).

Mariot 1 2 3 3 2 2
Coleman 2 1 0 0 2 2
Mariot pitched to 4 batters in the 8th.
WP—Guthrie. T—2-35. A—11,207 (37,903).

MLB

AL roundup

Wieters' HR gives O's doubleheader sweep

The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Matt Wieters led off the 10th inning with a home run off Stolmy Pimentel to give the Baltimore Orioles a 6-5 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates and a doubleheader sweep Thursday night.

In the opener, Steve Pearce had three hits and two RBIs in his return to the Orioles, who got a home run from Nick Markakis in a 5-1 win.

The single-admission doubleheader followed consecutive rain-outs on Tuesday and Wednesday. The rain lingered long enough to delay the fifth inning of the opener by 21 minutes, and the start of the nightcap was stalled 46 minutes by rain.

Mariners 4, Yankees 2: Robinson Cano doubled and drove in two runs, Roenis Elias struck out 10 in seven impressive innings and Seattle beat host New York.

Michael Saunders had three hits, including an RBI double, to help the Mariners win for the fifth time in six games following an eight-game skid. Seattle won both games in a rain-shortened series that marked Cano's return to New York after signing a \$240 million, 10-year contract with the Mariners during the offseason.

Seattle has won four straight at Yankee Stadium dating to last season.

Rays 2-6, Red Sox 1-5: Yunel Escobar homered off closer Koji Uehara leading off the ninth inning to propel visiting Tampa Bay to a 6-5 win and a day-night doubleheader sweep of Boston.

Escobar crushed the second pitch from Uehara (0-1) over the Green Monster in left field for his second homer of the year, and



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Teammates greet Orioles catcher Matt Wieters at home plate after he hit a solo home run in the 10th inning in the second game of a doubleheader against the Pittsburgh Pirates on Friday in Baltimore. The Orioles won 6-5 in 10 innings.

Grant Balfour recorded the final three outs for his second save of the day and sixth of the season.

Sean Rodriguez and Desmond Jennings also went deep for Tampa Bay, which won for just the third time in nine games.

Tampa Bay won the opener, 2-1. David DeJesus had a homer and drew a bases-loaded walk,

and the Rays' bullpen pitched 4 1/3 scoreless innings.

Blue Jays 7, Royals 3: Mark Buehrle pitched into the seventh inning, Juan Francisco and Colby Rasmus each went deep and visiting Toronto avoided a series sweep.

Francisco and Rasmus each drove in a pair of runs for the

Blue Jays, as did Anthony Gose, who was recalled from Triple-A Buffalo to start in place of injured outfielder Melky Cabrera.

Interleague

Dodgers 9-4, Twins 4-3: Scott Van Slyke and Drew Butera homered in the 12th inning and Los Angeles held on to beat host Min-

nesota to earn a sweep of their day-night doubleheader.

Adrian Gonzalez also homered for the Dodgers, who stranded 16 runners in the 5 hour, 11-minute game.

Yasiel Puig tied a career high with four hits in Los Angeles' Game 1 win and added two more in the nightcap.



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Atlanta's Ramiro Pena sits in the dugout in the ninth inning of Thursday's game against the Marlins in Miami. The Marlins defeated the Braves 5-4. Pena struck out with the bases loaded in the eighth.

NL roundup

McGehee, Stanton lift Miami

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Giancarlo Stanton and Casey McGehee hit consecutive run-scoring singles off David Carpenter during a two-run rally in the seventh inning as the Miami Marlins beat the Atlanta Braves 5-4 Thursday for a three-game sweep of the National League East leader.

Miami has won six straight home games for the first time at Marlins Park, which opened in 2012. It is the longest home winning streak for the team since the Marlins won eight in a row from June 20 to July 1, 2009.

With the Marlins trailing 4-3, pinch-hitter Reed Johnson singled off Ian Thomas (1-1) leading off the seventh and took second on Christian Yelich's single. Derek Dietrich lined out, and Carpenter relieved and gave up the back-to-back hits.

Mike Dunn (3-3) pitched a hitless seventh, and Steve Cishek got four outs for his sixth save.

Reds 8, Brewers 3: Brayan Pena's second career pinch-homer started host Cincinnati's five-run, eighth-inning rally.

Tucker Barnhart led off the fifth with his first career homer and Todd Frazier added a two-run drive in the sixth off Marco Estrada, who gave up six hits and four walks in six innings.

Pena had homered during a 9-4 loss to the Chicago Cubs on Wednesday night. He hit for Bailey with the score tied at 3 in the eighth and connected on the first pitch from Jim Henderson (2-1) for a two-run homer.

Homer Bailey (2-2) allowed eight hits in a season-high eight innings.

Rockies 7, Mets 4: Carlos Gonzalez homered before leaving with a finger injury, Juan

Nicasio pitched seven scoreless innings and drove in three runs, and Colorado beat visiting New York.

Corey Dickerson had three hits, including an RBI triple and Nolan Arenado singled leading off the third to extend the majors' longest active streak to 21 games. He's tied for the fourth-longest hitting streak in Rockies team history.

Gonzalez connected for his sixth home run of the season in the first inning, driving a 3-2 offering from Bartolo Colon (2-4) off the right-center field facings just below the second deck. Gonzalez was lifted in the fourth inning, replaced by pinch hitter Brandon Barnes, because of what the team said was a bruised left index finger. His playing status was listed as day to day.

Nicasio (3-1) got the win.

SPORTS BRIEFS/KENTUCKY DERBY

Petty upset at NASCAR over \$25K Ambrose fine

The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Marcos Ambrose understands the \$25,000 fine NASCAR levied against him for punching Casey Mears in the face.

His stock car owner is none too pleased with the penalty and thinks his driver shouldn't be fined for defending himself. Richard Petty says he wants to discuss the penalty with NASCAR officials.

Ambrose and Mears were both punished this week for a post-race altercation at Richmond. Mears was fined \$15,000 after he angrily approached Ambrose and shoved the Australian when Ambrose appeared to be walking away. Ambrose replied with a right punch to Mears' face that drew blood near his eye.

Ambrose was not appealing and said on Thursday he'll pay the fine. Petty thought it was ridiculous that his driver was punished all.

Also:
■ Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s team has signed a three-year sponsorship deal with Nationwide Insurance. The agreement with the No. 88 Hendrick Motorsports Sprint Cup Series team was announced Friday.

■ A German investigator cast doubt on the credibility of Bernie Ecclestone's assertion he was blackmailed into making a \$44 million payment to a Munich banker, telling the Formula One magazine on Friday the claim was "very vague." Ecclestone, 83, is accused of making the payment to banker Gerhard Gribkowsky, who is serving an 8½-year sentence for taking the money. He is charged with bribery and incitement to breach of trust, and could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Oldest Olympian, US sharpshooter, dies

ARLINGTON, Va. — Walter R. Walsh, an FBI sharpshooter who was the world's oldest living Olympian, has died. He was 106.

Walsh died on Tuesday — six days before his 107th birthday — at his home in Arlington, USA Shooting announced.

Walsh, who first honed his shooting skills by picking off clothespins on a clothesline with a BB gun as a child, finished 12th in the men's 50-meter free pistol

at the 1948 London Olympics. He was 41 by then, and had already demonstrated his marksmanship with the FBI and the Marine Corps.

During the Depression, Walsh was instrumental in the capture and killing of several gangsters. As an FBI rookie, he discovered the body of Baby Face Nelson after a shootout that left two federal agents dead, and a year later helped catch Arthur (Doc) Barker of the Barker Gang.

Walsh took a commission as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1938 and went on active duty in 1942, eventually serving on the front lines in the First Marine Division, and spent more than 20 years as a shooting instructor for the Marines after the war before his retirement in 1970.

Prosecutor: Coach's call to alleged victim OK

PITTSBURGH — Penn State football coach James Franklin did nothing "inappropriate" in contacting the woman who claims four of Franklin's former players at Vanderbilt University raped her last year, a Tennessee prosecutor said Thursday.

"I can't comment on it much other than to say the statement we've always made is there is no indication that coach Franklin did anything inappropriate in this investigation," Nashville Deputy District Attorney Tom Thurman told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette in a telephone interview.

An attorney Franklin had with the woman wasn't significant to the case, Thurman added.

Browns sign QB Vince Young

BEREA, Ohio — The Browns have signed free agent quarterback Vince Young, who hasn't played in an NFL regular-season game since 2011.

Young was given a tryout this week at Browns' three-day minicamp and showed enough to earn a deal. The team also signed quarterback Tyler Thigpen.

Young, 30, made two Pro Bowls during his five seasons with Tennessee, which drafted him with the No. 3 overall pick in 2006.

Young played in Philadelphia and is 31-19 as an NFL starter. He spent parts of the past two preseasons with Buffalo and Green Bay.

Todd: Like his mentor Lukas, Pletcher subscribes to 'strength in numbers' philosophy

FROM BACK PAGE

Intense Holiday, also 8-1, was most recently second in the Louisiana Derby. John Velazquez will be aboard. The colt hit the board in three races this year, all stakes. He won the Risen Star at the Fair Grounds in February and returned there to get second in the Louisiana Derby.

Vincermos and jockey Joe Rocco Jr. were 30-1 after stopping badly in the Blue Grass Stakes. Before that, he had shown steady improvement over the winter, winning the S.F. Davis Stakes and finishing second in the Tampa Bay Derby.

The Blue Grass was his first race on a synthetic track.

We Miss Artie, primarily a turf and synthetic track specialist, switches to dirt at 50-1 with Javier Castellano in the saddle.

Pletcher seemed less enthused about running We Miss Artie, especially after the Spiral Stakes winner worked poorly last weekend.

"I just expected more from him," Pletcher said. "I'm not sure at all he should be running in the Derby."

Quarter Ken Ramsey had the final say, and We Miss Artie landed in the Derby lineup.



GARRY JONES/AP

Rosie Napravnik finished fifth aboard Mylute in last year's Kentucky Derby, the best finish for a female jockey in the race's history. Her mount this year is 20-1 long shot Vicar's in Trouble.

Nappravnik chasing history

First woman to win Kentucky Oaks aiming to match achievement in Derby

By BETH HARRIS

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — She started out her career disguising her gender, riding under the initials A.R. Napravnik. In the male-dominated world of horse racing, Anna Rose Napravnik thought she'd have better luck if nobody noticed a woman's name in the track program.

With her red hair tucked under her helmet, she blended in with the male jockeys in their brightly colored silks, white pants and polished black riding boots.

Nine years later, Rosie Napravnik is a rising star, having long ago discarded her ruse. Now the 26-year-old will try to make history this weekend and become the first woman to ride a Kentucky Derby winner.

She's achieved firsts before. She was the first woman to win the Louisiana Derby, and did it twice. She also was the highest-placing female rider in the Kentucky Derby, finishing fifth last year aboard Mylute. She was the first woman to win the Kentucky Oaks, a \$1 million race run on Derby eve, and has a strong chance to win it again on Friday with early 4-5 favorite Untapable.

Her mount in the Derby on Saturday is 20-1 long shot Vicar's in Trouble.

"When I think about the things I've done in my

career, it seems like I just started yesterday," said Napravnik, a winner in her very first race while still in high school.

"I've been in so many different places. I've been so lucky to have ridden some of the horses I've ridden. It keeps building, and getting better and better and better."

Not much would be better than winning the Derby on her third try.

She's facing a built-in challenge: Vicar's In Trouble drew the dreaded No. 1 spot in the starting gate. With 19 horses on his outside fighting to move inside to save ground, he and Napravnik will be under pressure when the gate springs open.

Eight horses have won the Derby from the No. 1 post, most recently Ferdinand in 1986. Citation, the 1948 Triple Crown winner, started from there.

Horses have been her whole life, having a father who is a blacksmith and a mother who ran a boarding and training stable.

Nappravnik enjoys the support of female racing fans, which have hammered down the odds on both of her previous Derby horses through their wagering.

"Sometimes I feel like it puts me up on a pedestal when I don't feel like I should be there," she said. "At the same time, I have learned to embrace it and be the role model that people want me to be. It's kind of inspiring to me that I've inspired other people."

Derby winner as one of four Pletcher trainees in the race.

The biggest challenge for Pletcher with four runners is sorting out the strategy sessions with each jockey.

"In the case of a race like the Derby, the situation changes because of the multiple entries," Pletcher said. "In a regular race where I'd only have one runner going, we can talk strategy in the paddock."

That's impossible amid the noise and chaos on Derby Day.

"I talk to my riders ahead of time then, leaving me time to deal with all there is to do in the paddock that day," Pletcher said.

NHL PLAYOFFS/NBA

Canadiens earn Game 1 victory

Subban's 2OT goal sinks host Boston

By JIMMY GOLEN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Twice the Montreal Canadiens took the lead in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the rival Bruins.

Twice they allowed Boston to tie it.

Heading into the locker room after a lackluster third period cost them a chance at a regulation victory, Carey Price knew that there was still a chance to recover.

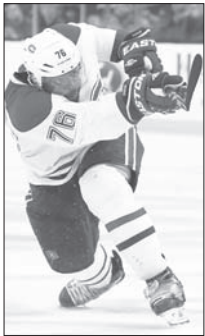
"We all realized the game was still up for grabs, and feeling sorry for yourself is not the best way to go about things," the Montreal goalie said after making 48 saves to lead the Canadiens to a 4-3, double-overtime victory over Boston on Thursday.

P.K. Subban scored his second goal of the game at 4:17 of the second overtime, and the Canadiens won in Boston to take home-ice advantage from the team that had the NHL's best record in the regular season. It's back at the TD Garden on Saturday.

Rene Bourque and Francis Bouillon also scored for the Canadiens, who blew 2-0 and 3-2 leads in the third period. Subban's second goal came 7 seconds into Montreal's second power play of overtime, leading fans to pelt the ice with cups and giveaway towels as the players filed off to the locker rooms.

"They were the best team in the league all season long. They played a great first round. They played a solid game tonight," Montreal coach Michel Therrien said. "But us, we found a way to win."

Reilly Smith, Torey Krug and Johnny Boychuk scored for Boston, and Tuukka Rask made 29 saves. The Bruins, who never led in the game, had several other good chances in the third period



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Montreal's P.K. Subban follows through on his game-winning goal in the second overtime against the Bruins in Game 1 of their second-round playoff series in Boston on Thursday.

and first overtime, with pucks hitting the crossbar and trickling across the crease but failing to cross the line.

"(We) don't get frustrated after one game," Bruins coach Claude Julien said. "Had lots of chances and we showed some resiliency. Have to find a way to bury those great opportunities we had. That is the regret."

The Bruins outshot the Canadiens 14-6 in the third period as they twice rallied to tie it. Montreal picked up a power play at the end of the first overtime and failed to score, and then another when Matt Bartkowski was sent off for taking down Dale Weise in the crease to keep him from getting to a loose puck.

The Canadiens won the ensuing faceoff and worked the puck around to Subban, who slapped it past Rask to end the game.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara takes down Canadiens center David Desharnais (51) during the second overtime in Boston on Thursday.

NHL scoreboard

First round

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Boston 4, Detroit 1

Detroit 1, Boston 0
Boston 4, Detroit 1
Boston 3, Detroit 1
Boston 3, Detroit 2, OT
Boston 4, Detroit 2

Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 0

Montreal 5, Tampa Bay 4, OT
Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 1
Montreal 3, Tampa Bay 2
Montreal 4, Tampa Bay 3

Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 2

Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3
Columbus 4, Pittsburgh 3, OT
Pittsburgh 3, Columbus 2
Pittsburgh 4, Columbus 3

N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 3

N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1
Philadelphia 4, N.Y. Rangers 2
N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 1
Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Rangers 1

N.Y. Rangers 4, Philadelphia 2
Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
N.Y. Rangers 2, Philadelphia 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Minnesota 4, Colorado 3

Colorado 5, Minnesota 4, OT
Colorado 4, Minnesota 2
Minnesota 1, Colorado 0
Minnesota 2, Colorado 1

Colorado 4, Minnesota 3, OT
Minnesota 5, Colorado 2
Minnesota 5, Colorado 4, OT

Chicago 4, St. Louis 2

St. Louis 4, Chicago 3, 3OT
St. Louis 4, Chicago 3, OT
Chicago 2, St. Louis 0
Chicago 4, St. Louis 1, OT

Chicago 3, St. Louis 2, OT
Chicago 5, St. Louis 1

Anaheim 4, Dallas 2

Anaheim 4, Dallas 3
Anaheim 3, Dallas 2
Dallas 3, Anaheim 0

Dallas 4, Anaheim 2
Anaheim 5, Dallas 2, OT

Los Angeles 4, San Jose 3

San Jose 6, Los Angeles 3
San Jose 7, Los Angeles 2
San Jose 4, Los Angeles 1
Los Angeles 6, San Jose 3
Los Angeles 3, San Jose 0
Los Angeles 4, San Jose 1
Los Angeles 5, San Jose 1

Second round

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Montreal 1, Boston 0

Thursday: Montreal 4, Boston 3, 2OT
Saturday: Boston 2, Montreal 1
Sunday: Montreal 6, Boston 4

Thursday, May 8: at Montreal
Friday, May 9: at Montreal
x-Monday, May 12: at Montreal
x-Wednesday, May 14: at Boston

Sunday: at Pittsburgh
Monday: at N.Y. Rangers vs. Pittsburgh

Wednesday, May 7: at N.Y. Rangers
Friday, May 9: at Pittsburgh
x-Saturday, May 11: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Tuesday, May 13: at Pittsburgh

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Minnesota 5, Chicago 3

Friday: Chicago 3, Minnesota 2
Saturday: Chicago 6, at Minnesota
x-Sunday, May 11: at Minnesota
x-Tuesday, May 13: at Chicago

x-Thursday, May 15: at Chicago
Los Angeles vs. Anaheim

Saturday: Anaheim 3, Los Angeles 1
Monday: at Anaheim
Tuesday: Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 3

Saturday, May 10: at Los Angeles
x-Monday, May 12: at Anaheim
x-Wednesday, May 14: at Los Angeles
x-Friday, May 16: at Anaheim

Thursday

Canadiens 4, Bruins 3 (2OT)

Montreal 1 1 1 1 0 1-4
Boston 0 0 3 0 0-3

First Period—1, Montreal, P.Subban 1 (Markov, Pielgrims, 11:23 (pp))

Second Period—2, Montreal, Bourque 4 (Eller), 3:36

Third Period—3, Boston, Smith 2 (Marchand, Hamilton), 2:44, 4, Boston, Krug 2 (Luc, Bergeron), 6:30, 5, Montreal, Bouillon 1 (Gionta, Bourque), 12:09, 6, Boston, Boychuk 1 (Marchand, Smith), 18:02

Second Overtime—7, Montreal, P.Subban 2 (Markov, Briere), 4:17 (pp)

Shots on Goal—Montreal 19 (7-6-6-3), Boston 13 (9-14-14-1-51)

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 2 of 3; Boston 0 of 4

Goals—Montreal, Price 5-0 (51 shots, 44 saves), Boston, Rask 4-2-0 (33-29)

A—17,565 (17,565), T—3:47

Calendar

May 25-31 — NHL combine, Toronto.
June 18 — Last possible day for Stanley Cup finals.

June 27-28 — NHL awards, Las Vegas.

July 18 — NHL draft, Philadelphia.

July 1 — Free agency begins.



HARRY E. WALKER/MCT

Whoever the Los Angeles Lakers settle on to replace head coach Mike D'Antoni, who resigned on Wednesday, they must be able to command the respect of superstar guard Kobe Bryant, above, who signed a two-year extension worth \$48.5 million last spring.

Lakers in no hurry to hire next coach

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Lakers say they're in no rush to hire their next head coach.

That means the next several weeks are likely to be filled with anonymous speculation, widespread rumors and outright lies about the innumerable candidates to succeed Mike D'Antoni after the Lakers' worst season in more than 50 years.

After two misfires in the last three years with Mike Brown and D'Antoni, the Lakers will take all the time necessary to get it right in owner Jim Buss' first coaching hire since the death of his father, Jerry. General manager Mitch Kupchak said they have no timetable, which could extend past the NBA draft lottery on May 20.

Yet the Lakers still have one of the NBA's most attractive coaching jobs despite their 27-55 season, and the new coach will be on the ground floor of a thorough franchise rebuild over the next several years for the 16-time champions. D'Antoni resigned when the Lakers were unwilling to commit to him beyond next year.

"It's one of the premier jobs, if not the premier job in the league," former Lakers coach Mike Dunleavy said Thursday on his SiriusXM radio show. "Obviously, the history and the amount of championships they've won, and the fact is you're in L.A. They've shown a great ability to reload over the years pretty quickly, and obviously they've got Kobe Bryant still on their team."

A few candidates have already raised their hands. Former Lakers guard Byron Scott and forward Kurt Rambis are both possibilities after head coaching stints elsewhere in the league. Former Grizzlies coach Lionel Hollins and NBA veteran George

Karl both possess the gravitas necessary to impress Bryant and to succeed in Los Angeles.

College names also popped up in the endless online speculation about the job, including John Calipari, Kevin Ollie and Mike Krzyzewski, although it's unclear whether the Lakers will try yet again to lure the Duke University coach out of North Carolina.

The Lakers' new coach will have the closest thing to a blank canvas in many years in Los Angeles. The team has just three players under contract for next season, along with a draft pick guaranteed to be in the top nine.

But Bryant is still the Lakers' centerpiece. He will be 36 when he returns in the fall from a season in which he played just six games due to two major leg injuries, but he will make \$48.5 million over the next two seasons.

Bryant favors tough-minded coaches with the credentials and personalities to succeed in the big city, which suggests possibilities like Jeff Van Gundy, the former Knicks coach. Bryant is known to respect Van Gundy, now a television commentator.

ESPN reported the Lakers plan to ask the Chicago Bulls for permission to interview well-regarded coach Tim Lincecum, who has won 205 games over four seasons in Chicago, but struggled in the postseason.

Speculation began immediately about former Laker Derek Fisher, currently finishing up his last playing season in Oklahoma City. Fisher has long said he's not interested in coaching, however, preferring to go after an NBA front-office role when he retires.

There are other surprising candidates: The Lakers' leadership has long been enamored with Ettore Messina, the Italian ex-Lakers assistant coach currently running CSKA Moscow.

NBA PLAYOFFS

West powers Pacers to Game 7

Veteran forward refuses to lose, keeps top-seeded Indiana alive

By PAUL NEWBERY
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Three minutes from a far-sooner-than-expected summer vacation, the Indiana Pacers turned to their victory, the Indiana Pacers turned to their victory, the Indiana Pacers turned to their victory.

Now, it's back to Indianapolis for Game 7, the top-seeded Pacers giving themselves another chance to finally shake off the Atlanta Hawks.

West scored 24 points and led a 16-4 run to end the game, pushing Indiana to a 95-88 victory over the eighth-seeded Hawks that evened the series at three games apiece.

Simply put, West refused to let the Pacers lose.

"When a team is making a run like that, and you're dealing with an eight seed trying to knock off a one seed in their building, and the place is erupting on every play, it's great to have somebody out there with that level of composure," Indiana coach Frank Vogel said. "He's our rock. There's no other way to put it."

After losing at home for the second time

He's our rock. There's no other way to put it.

Frank Vogel
Pacers coach, on
PF David West

That's when West took over.

He scored four straight points, sandwiched around a huge steal, and hit two more baskets in the final minute to send the series back to Indiana for Game 7.

Paul George also scored 24 points for the Pacers, who have shown a willingness to change their physical style to cope with the Hawks' ability to spread the court.

While Roy Hibbert started at center, he played only about 12 minutes for the second game in a row, Ian Mahinmi went nearly twice as long, giving Indiana more mobility in the lane, while C.J. Watson and Chris

in the series, Indiana faced elimination in Atlanta. When the Hawks pushed out to an 84-79 lead with just over 3 minutes remaining, cheered on by a raucous crowd that barely sat down in the second half, the Pacers' improbable collapse seemed complete.

Copeland also got extensive minutes.

It worked. Atlanta bogged down offensively and made only nine of 35 from beyond the three-point arc.

"I told the guys, 'If worse comes to worse, we've got to play park basketball,'" said West, who also led the Pacers with 11 rebounds and six assists, not to mention a couple of steals.

If there was a possible damper on Indiana's night, it stemmed from a scuffle late in the first half. Atlanta's Mike Scott got into it with Indiana's George Hill, and the two showed at each other in front of the Pacers' bench. Replays showed George and a teammate taking a step onto the court, a violation of NBA rules, though they were quickly pushed back by assistant coaches.

No punches were thrown. Scott and Hill were each assessed a technical foul.

Vogel said he doesn't expect any additional discipline from the league office, though there is precedent for a suspension. "I'm not concerned about any suspensions until we hear something," the coach said. "I don't imagine there would be."



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Pacers forward David West reacts as he leaves the court after Thursday's 95-88 Game 6 win over the Hawks in Atlanta.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Thunder forward Kevin Durant shoots as he falls back between Memphis' Marc Gasol and Tony Allen (9) during Game 6 of their opening-round playoff series Thursday in Memphis, Tenn. Durant led Oklahoma City with 36 points as they won 104-84 to even the series 3-3.

Durant, Thunder rout Grizzlies

By TERESA M. WALKER
The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Kevin Durant insisted the Thunder faced elimination was all the motivation he needed.

Thanks to the NBA's best scorer, the Thunder remain alive and can finish off the Memphis Grizzlies back in Oklahoma City.

Durant scored 36 points to break out of a slump, and the Thunder routed the Grizzlies 104-84 on Thursday night to force a deciding seventh game in the first-round Western Conference series. His performance came on a day where the hometown newspaper questioned his struggles with a head-

line calling him "Mr. Unreliable." "We needed to win this game," Durant said. "That's more motivation than anything, so our team responded. We've got to do an even better job in Game 7."

Mike Sherman, sports editor of The Oklahoman, wrote in an online apology that the headline was "overstated and unduly harsh." He clarified that it was focused on Durant's play against Memphis, rather than the NBA superstar's body of work.

Durant missed a potential game-winning shot in Game 5 on Tuesday. Despite averaging 28.0 points and 9.8 rebounds against the Grizzlies, Durant was shooting just 40 percent from the field

and had many turnovers (20) as assists heading into Game 6.

"You don't get to his level as an NBA player and a great player as he is to have other people motivate you," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "He's self-motivated."

Russell Westbrook added 25 points for the Thunder, who haven't been eliminated in the first round of the playoffs since 2010. They took control early with Durant scoring 14 points in the first quarter, led by 15 at halftime and never let Memphis get that close again in the second half in the first game in the series that didn't go to overtime since the opener.

Durant also had 10 rebounds and made 14 of 15 free throws.

Scoreboard

First round	
x-if necessary	
Eastern Conference	
Atlanta 3, Indiana 3	
Atlanta 101, Indiana 93	
Indiana 101, Atlanta 93	
Atlanta 98, Indiana 85	
Indiana 93, Atlanta 88	
Atlanta 107, Indiana 97	
Thursday: Indiana 95, Atlanta 88	
Saturday: at Indiana	
Miami 4, Charlotte 0	
Miami 99, Charlotte 88	
Miami 101, Charlotte 97	
Miami 98, Charlotte 85	
Miami 109, Charlotte 98	
Toronto 2, Brooklyn 1	
Brooklyn 102, Chicago 81	
Toronto 100, Brooklyn 95	
Brooklyn 102, Toronto 98	
Toronto 87, Brooklyn 79	
Toronto 115, Brooklyn 113	
Friday: at Brooklyn	
x-Sunday: at Toronto	
Washington 4, Chicago 1	
Washington 102, Chicago 99	
Washington 101, Chicago 99	
Washington 100, Washington 97	
Washington 102, Chicago 96	
Western Conference	
San Antonio 3, Dallas 2	
San Antonio 90, Dallas 85	
Dallas 113, San Antonio 92	
Dallas 109, San Antonio 108	
San Antonio 83, Dallas 89	
San Antonio 109, Dallas 103	
Friday: at Dallas	
x-Sunday: at San Antonio	
Memphis 3, Oklahoma City 3	
Oklahoma City 100, Memphis 86	
Memphis 111, Oklahoma City 105	
Oklahoma City 92, Memphis 89	
OT Memphis 100, Oklahoma City 95	
Thursday: Oklahoma City 104, Memphis 84	
Saturday: at Oklahoma City	
L.A. Clippers 3, Golden State 105	
Golden State 109, L.A. Clippers 103	
L.A. Clippers 138, Golden State 98	
Golden State 118, L.A. Clippers 97	
L.A. Clippers 113, Golden State 103	
Thursday: Golden State 100, L.A. Clippers 96	
Saturday: at L.A. Clippers	
Portland 12, Houston 100	
Portland 12, Houston 100	
Portland 12, Houston 100	
Portland 12, Houston 100	
Friday: at Portland	
x-Sunday: at Houston	

Thursday	
Warriors 100, Clippers 99	
L.A. CLIPPERS — M.Barnes 7-12 3-8 18, Durant 14-24, Jordan 3-3 9-8 9, Paul 3-10 1-20, Redick 4-13 5-5 15, Ja. Crawford 5-15 1-9, Collins 1-2 0-0 0, Granger 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 0-1 0-0 0, W.Green 0-0 0-0 0, B. Johnson 0-0 0-0 0, Hey 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 30-67 24-33 99	
Golden State 104, Lakers 94	
Durant 12-20 14, Lee 0-8 0-8, Curry 9-24 7-24, Thompson 11-1 0-2, Speights 4-7 4-12, Jo. Crawford 1-1 0-0 0, Barnes 2-8 3-4 8, O'Neal 1-0 0-2, Armstrong 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 35-89 23-37 100	

L.A. Clippers	
25 26 16 32 — 99	
Golden State	
25 23 22 30-100	
Three-Point Goals — L.A. Clippers 11-35 (Ja. Crawford 4-8, M.Barnes 3-7, Paul 2-5, Redick 2-10, Granger 0-1, Collison 0-1, Griffin 0-1), Golden State 7-24 (Curry 2-8, H.Barnes 1-2, Igoudala 1-2, Jo. Crawford 1-2, Thompson 1-4, D.Green 1-6), Fouled Out — Griffin, Redick, Lee, Rebounds — Clippers 67 (Jordan 19), Golden State 65 (D.Green 14), Assists — L.A. Clippers 22 (Paul 8), Golden State 20 (Curry 9), Total Fouls — L.A. Clippers 28, Golden State 24, Technicals — M.Barnes, Speights, A. — 15,996 (15,996)	

Thunder 104, Grizzlies 84	
OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 11-23 14-15 36, Ibaka 3-6 2-2 8, Perkins 3-4 0-6, Westbrook 9-21 6-25, Butler 2-5 1-2, Collison 1-1 0-0 2, Jackson 6-9 0-0 16, Fisher 1-4 0-0 2, Adams 1-2 0-0 2, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Lamb 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 37-75 23-25 104	
MEMPHIS — Prince 0-1 0-0 0, Randolph 7-14 2-4 16, Gasol 6-13 5-6 17, Conley 2-10 1-2 5, Lee 2-7 0-0 4, Allen 5-9 3-4 13, Miller 2-6 1-1 7, Udrih 1-8 0-2, Kousis 1-2 0-0 2, Davis 1-1 0-1 2, Johnson 4-11 6-15 15, Leuer 0-1 0-0 0, Franklin 0-1 1-2 1, Totals 31-83 18-29 84	
Oklahoma City	25 31 26 22-104
Memphis	17 24 20 28-84
Three-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 7-21 (Ja. Crawford 4-8, Butler 2-4, Westbrook 1-2, Ibaka 0-1, Fisher 0-3, Durant 0-6), Memphis 4-9 (Randolph 3, Assists — Oklahoma City 15 (Westbrook 5), Memphis 19 (Conley 6), Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 19, Memphis 19, Technicals—Butler, Westbrook, Memphis Coach Joergers, Johnson, A.—18,119 (18,119)	

Pacers 95, Hawks 88	
INDIANA — George 7-18 9-10 24, West 10-20 4-24, Hibbert 0-1 0-0 0, Gill 5-12 2-14, Stephenson 17-3 6-21, Copeland 1-2 2-2 5, Watson 3-9 0-0 7, Butler 0-1 0-0 0, Mathews 0-1 0-0 0, Scoll 2-9 0-1 4, Mack 1-3 0-0 2, Totals 37-73 27-95	
Atlanta — Carroll 3-7 0-0 7, Millsap 4-13 7-16, Antic 1-7 3-4 5, Beane 9-21 9-9 29, Korver 3-8 0-0 9, Brand 0-1 0-0 0, Williams 6-12 2-16, Scott 2-9 0-1 4, Mack 1-3 0-0 2, Totals 29-81 21-24 88	
Atlanta	22 27 28 21-88
Three-Point Goals—Indiana 6-20 (G.Hill 2-5, Copeland 1-1, Stephenson 1-2, Watson 1-4, George 1-6, West 0-1, Butler 0-1), Atlanta 9-35 (Korver 3-8, Williams 2-5, Teague 2-6, Carroll 2-6, Beane 1-4, Antic 0-4, Scott 0-6), Fouled Out — Millsap, Rebounds — Indiana 53 (West 11), Atlanta 48 (Mack 14), Assists — Indiana 29 (West 6), Atlanta 14 (Millsap 5), Total Fouls — Indiana 27, Atlanta 23, Technicals — G.Hill, Indiana defensive three second, Antic, Korver, Scott, A.—19,044 (18,729)	

NBA PLAYOFFS



MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Golden State shooting guard Stephen Curry gestures during the first quarter of Game 6 against the Los Angeles Clippers during their opening-round playoff series in Oakland, Calif., on Thursday.

Warriors hold on

Curry scores 24 to force winner-take-all Game 7

BY ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — After a first-round series filled with drama on the court and off it, the Golden State Warriors and Los Angeles Clippers will put the focus back on basketball in the biggest way possible.

Next up: Game 7.

Stephen Curry scored 24 points and dished out nine assists, and the Warriors forced a winner-take-all series finale by outlasting the Clippers 100-99 Thursday night.

"We are going to a Game 7 despite all the sideline music, and I like my chances because I've got a group of guys that want to do whatever it takes to win," Warriors coach Mark Jackson said.

Andre Igoudala added 15 points, and Draymond Green had 14 points and 14 rebounds for the Warriors, handing Los Angeles one more obstacle to overcome in a week full of them after Clippers owner Donald Sterling earned a lifetime ban from the NBA for his racist remarks.

Game 7 is Saturday night in Los Angeles, where an inspired Clippers crowd rallying behind the motto "We Are One" will be on hand at Staples Center.

"It's exciting. A lot of guys in the locker room haven't been in a Game 7," said Curry, who shot 9 of 24.

The Warriors limited big men Blake Griffin (17 points, nine rebounds) and DeAndre Jordan (19 rebounds, nine points) even after center Jermaine O'Neal left with a sprained right knee in the second quarter. The Clippers simply ran out of time in the closing min-



JEFF CHIU/AP

Warriors forward Draymond Green celebrates during the second half of Thursday's 100-99 win over the Clippers.

ute, missing three shots before Matt Barnes made a three-point shot with 1.1 seconds to play.

Los Angeles fouled Curry, who missed both free throws. Green grabbed the rebound as the buzzer sounded, touching off a confetti-filled celebration throughout the gold-shirt wearing sellout crowd of 19,596, which packed an unusually warm Oracle Arena that rocked and roared throughout.

"It was one of those hostile games. Give them credit. I thought they came up with just enough plays to beat us," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said.

Jamal Crawford scored 19 points, and Barnes had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers, who are trying to win just their third playoff series since Sterling bought the franchise in 1981.

The Clippers and Warriors have played 10 games this season. Each team has won five.

Owners meet over Clippers

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — NBA owners seem as committed as Commissioner Adam Silver to ending Donald Sterling's ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers.

The league's advisory/finance committee held its first meeting about Sterling on Thursday, two days after Silver said he would urge owners to force a sale of the team.

The 10-member committee held a conference call to discuss "the process for termination of Donald T. Sterling's ownership of the Los Angeles Clippers," NBA executive vice president Mike Bass said in a statement.

"The committee unanimously agreed to move forward as expeditiously as possible and will reconvene next week."

Silver banned Sterling for life and fined him \$2.5 million Tuesday for making racist comments. Sterling can have no association with the league or the team, but Silver wants more.

A forced sale would require approval by three-fourths of the league's 30 owners. Silver said he was confident he would get the votes.

Minnesota owner Glen Taylor chairs the committee that also includes Miami's Micky Arison, the Lakers' Jeanie Buss, Oklahoma City's Clay Bennett, New York's James Dolan, Boston's Wyc Grousbeck, San Antonio's Peter Holt, Phoenix's Robert Sarver, Indiana's Herb Simon, and Toronto's Larry Tanenbaum.

A number of big names have already expressed interest in buying that team that Sterling has owned since 1981, including Oprah Winfrey and boxing champion Floyd Mayweather Jr.

First, owners must force Sterling to give it up — which he may choose fight. According to the league's constitution and bylaws, Silver or an owner would have to file a written charge against Sterling, who would have five days to



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

If disgraced Clippers owner Donald Sterling, pictured, is forced to sell his team, he will have no shortage of potential buyers eager to bid on the franchise.

respond. Silver would then call a hearing of the board of governors, which would vote after hearing the evidence against Sterling.

Sacramento Kings owner Vivek Ranadive hopes it doesn't come to that.

"I don't want to talk about kind of the legal side of it because I can't really comment on it, but my feeling is that I have faith in people," he said. "And I would hope that at some point Mr. Sterling would come to his senses and do the right thing. That he would apologize to the fans, the league, the black community and he would do the right thing and he would accept what Commissioner Silver has suggested, he would put the team up for sale and perhaps even take a very small portion of the substantial profits and donate them to a good cause."

"It's not going to be easy to own a team where the fans don't welcome you, where the sponsors shun you and where you're not welcomed by the other owners. And I think he can do the right thing and hopefully good sense will prevail at some point."

Did you know

Leon Jenkins, NAACP L.A. chapter president, resigned Thursday after backlash to his decision to give Sterling an award for promoting civil rights.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

Attorney: Sterling audio leaked

BY TAMI ABDOLLAH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An attorney representing the woman Donald Sterling was talking to when he made racist remarks said on Thursday that the hour-long conversation was taped by mutual agreement last September and provided to a friend for safekeeping, who then leaked it to TMZ.

S. Stiviano sent two snippets of the conversation, recorded in her Los Angeles duplex, to a friend who then passed them without her permission, lawyer Siamak Nehoray said. He would not identify the friend.

Nehoray said she sent snippets of the conversation recorded on her phone electronically to her friend for safekeeping in case anything happened, but only two went through, Nehoray said. He wouldn't elaborate on what prompted her to send the recordings.

Nehoray said Stiviano learned they would be-

come public only after TMZ contacted her. She was devastated, he said.

"She's a young girl thrown in the middle of this thing, unwillingly," Nehoray said. "She didn't release the tape. She gave it to somebody for safekeeping. It was unfortunate that it was released."

In the recording, the Los Angeles Clippers owner expresses his unhappiness with Stiviano for posting online photos of herself with black people, including NBA great Magic Johnson.

Attorney Robert Platt, the general counsel for the Clippers, said he had no comment.

Nehoray said a third person was present during the conversation, but she wants to remain anonymous. Nehoray said the conversation took place in September 2013 after Sterling and Stiviano spent the day together; they'd stopped at her place for Sterling to rest.

"It was by mutual agreement that it was going to be recorded," he said. "There was nothing going on back then. There was no lawsuit. There was no rift. In October he threw a birthday party for her even."

California law requires both parties to agree to recording a conversation that one would reasonably expect to be private.

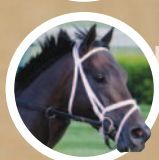
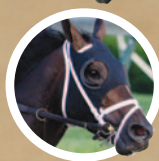
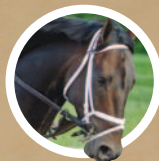


Stiviano

SPORTS



Going the distance
Warriors, Pacers, Thunder
force Game 7s | **Pages 30-31**



140
KENTUCKY DERBY

THE TODD SQUAD

Trainer Pletcher has hands full with
4 of 19 horses in Run for the Roses

By MIKE FARRELL
The Associated Press

Inside:

■ Rising star
Rosie Napravnik
looks to add to her
impressive résumé, Page 28

Exercise rider Ezequiel Perez
takes Kentucky Derby entrant
Danza for a morning workout at
Churchill Downs on Thursday in
Louisville, Ky. Danza is the top
contender among trainer Todd
Pletcher's four horses. The

others, from top:
We Miss Artie, Vincermenos
and Intense Holiday.

AP photos

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The "Todd Squad" is back for another crack at the Kentucky Derby.

Trainer Todd Pletcher will send out four of the 19 horses in the 1 1/4-mile Run for the Roses on Saturday at Churchill Downs.

Danza, the impressive winner of the Arkansas Derby, tops the quartet. He was 8-1 on the morning line with Joe Bravo set to ride.

Named for the star of the 1980s sitcom "Who's the Boss," Danza will be making only his fifth start. He showed promise at 2, finishing a close third in the Saratoga Special.

He returned to run third in an allowance race at Gulfstream Park before delivering a 4 1/2-length victory in the Arkansas Derby at 41-1.

It was a strong effort, from both the visual and the speed perspectives.

"His comeback race in Florida was better than it looked and his Arkansas Derby speaks for itself," Pletcher said. "He's been doing well and we have been pleased with how he's coming up to this race."

SEE TODD ON PAGE 28